

THE
P H O E N I X;
OR, THE
H I S T O R Y
OF
POLIARCHUS AND ARGENIS.

Vol. II.

MDCCLXXIII

THE
P H O E N I X;
OR, THE
H I S T O R Y
OF
POLYARCHUS AND ARGENIS.

Translated from the LATIN,

By a LADY.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOLUME II.

L O N D O N,

Printed for JOHN BELL, at his extensive Circulating-
Library, near Exeter-Exchange, in the Strand;
and C. ETHERINGTON, at York.

MDCC LXXII.

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Y R O E H I

SECOND OF JULY
POLYARCHUS AND ARGENTUS



ROBERT & LADY.

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1. The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. It is a formal address, and it is the first of its kind since the signing of the Constitution. The President, James Buchanan, is addressing the Congress, and he is doing so in a very formal and dignified manner. He is discussing the state of the Union, and he is also discussing the issue of slavery. He is saying that the Union is in a state of peril, and that he is doing everything in his power to preserve it. He is also saying that he is not going to interfere with the rights of the States, and that he is not going to interfere with the rights of the people. He is saying that he is not going to interfere with the rights of the States, and that he is not going to interfere with the rights of the people.

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THE
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OR, THE
HISTORY
OF
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BOOK II. CHAP. X.

*The escape of Poliarchus from shipwreck.
His combat with the pirates. A strange
adventure. The letter of Lycogenes found.
The perplexity of Poliarchus, and his voy-
age to Africa.*

WHEN the ship, in which Poli-
archus sailed from Rhegium, was
split upon the sands, and began to sink,
he with Gelanorus and two sailors went

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into

into the boat, as the pilot had related. They did not offer to row against the wind, but only with their oars kept the boat as steady as they could; so, being carried by the waves round the next point of land, they quickly lost sight of the ship. After they had been tossed about some time, the winds abated and the boat stuck fast among the rocks in shallow water. They then leapt into the sea, and lighted upon a firm but uneven footing; none were in less water than up to the knees, though none above the middle. The land was far off, no ship in sight, and they saw no way to avoid their destruction. Poliarchus would have ended his misfortunes by the sword; Gelanorus chose rather to commit himself to the waves; the sailors, though out of all hope of life, persuaded them to remain upon those rocks, and expect the assistance of nature or of fortune.

While they were thus debating on their uncertain fate, they saw at a distance a ship tossed by the waves, and by degrees coming nearer. It was a pirate's bark, strong,

strong, and well fitted to resist the weather, which had escaped the violence of the storm, and now the wind falling, it began to obey the helm. The pilot well knew of the rocks that lay under water thereabouts. He was therefore steering another way, when suddenly he perceived the wreck of the boat, and saw four men standing among the rocks, and holding up their hands, imploring the help of those who passed by. The pirates now doubted whether they should take them aboard, for what should they gain by their kindness, or what plunder could be gotten from shipwrecked men? The cruelty of their profession had obliterated all humanity from their hearts. Yet, because many passengers keep their most valuable effects about them, they resolved to seek for the spoil; and the sea being now much calmer they sent out a boat, which rowed softly, for fear of dashing upon those rocks, and often sounding the depth of the water, they called to the suppliants, and bad them come forward, as near as they could

to the boat. At length they made a bridge with their oars from the boat to the nearest rock, and so took them all in safely. On seeing Poliarchus and Gelanorus, they were amazed at the beauty of their persons and the richness of their apparel, and whispered among themselves that this would prove a rich prize.

But as soon as they were taken out of the boat into the bark; then, no longer dissembling their villany, the pirates offered to chain them as captives: at this, Poliarchus, struck with amazement, as at a thing incredible, drew his sword, and thus addressed them: "What mean you, friends? What quarrel have you against us, whom but now you thought worthy to be saved, at the hazard of your own lives?" With no less eagerness did Gelanorus catch his sword, and put back his fetters. But when they, nothing moved with their words or resistance, grew more outrageous, and laid hold of their weapons, Poliarchus no longer staid to parley with them, but instantly sheathed his sword in the
body

body of the man who offered to put chains upon him. Gelanorus having dispatched another, came up to defend his lord; then standing back to back, to avoid being furrounded, they faced their enemies both ways; they snatched up the broken oars that lay upon deck, and used them by way of buckler to guard their heads. The sailors, who were taken with Poliarchus, animated with so brave an example, laid hold on oars, poles, and whatever was near at hand, and took their part in the fight. Some of their former captives were bound with cords, and others chained to the oars; as they gladly beheld this contention, and Poliarchus perceived by their looks, that their wishes were in his favour, he thinking their help would be of service, cut their cords with his sword, and encouraged them to fight boldly against these villians; they being set free, unbound their fellows, till at length they almost equalled the number of their enemies. The pirates were at first only thirteen, of these two were slain by Poliarchus, and

one by Gelanorus; the sailors and captives encountered five of them, so the other five were upon Poliarchus and Gelanorus; nor did they let their companions fall unrevenge'd; one of the shipwreck'd sailors they threw over-board, and one of them struck Poliarchus with a club, armed with iron spikes, aiming at his neck, but he suddenly turning his head, the blow fell upon his side. Had not his coat of mail warded the blow, what infinite grief that weapon had caused to Argenis? As it was, it gave him many, but not deep wounds; at which Poliarchus enraged, wrested the weapon from his assailant, and with it dashed out his brains, with a loud and undaunted voice animating Gelanorus to the victory, who by this time had slain two, and sharply prest the remainder. Those that survived, retired fearfully to the other side of the ship, where the freed captives were, whose courage was raised by the success of their friends, so that enclosed with them on one side, and Gelanorus and Poliarchus on the other, it was difficult

to

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to preserve them from being cut in pieces; but Poliarchus was desirous to take them alive, and reserve them for a just punishment; therefore he caused three that kneeled for mercy to be taken and bound. And amidst the congratulations of all those whom he had delivered from the power of the pirates, he was infinitely pleased, that by this accident, he had performed a service to mankind. They all together hailed him as their deliverer, their tutelar Deity! saying, that he had shewn more than mortal power and courage, in the defeat of the pirates, and that he was worthy to be the patron of distressed men in all parts of the world.

Poliarchus, that he might not do a courtesy to repent of afterwards, enquired diligently who was the owner of the ship, who was the pilot, and from whence the pirates came? One of the men who was chained to the oar, cried out, "Noblest of men, whoever thou art, take pity on me! This ship I bought with my own money, I had charge of her, both as owner

and master; trading often between Africa and Spain. I arrived by chance at the mouth of the river Bœtis, and there unloading, I took in a freight of Spanish goods, when these robbers, under the name of passengers, brought me to all this misery. Lest their numbers should breed suspicion, they came to me by one and two at a time, and pretended they were bound for different places; some for Adrumetum, others for Clupea and Utica. We agreed for the passage, and I being ignorant of their treacherous designs, received them on board. So long as we were in port, they pretended to be strangers to each other; but when we were got far from land, and many of the sailors (as is common in fair weather) were fallen asleep, they suddenly rushed upon us. Me they thrust from the helm, and my men they seized between sleeping and waking, and chained them to the oars, shewing themselves to be execrable pirates, who, of passengers, had made themselves owners; and now steered their course at their own pleasure.

sure. They had some skilful seamen among them, and instead of goods they had brought chains, which they put upon us all. They afterwards pillaged several vessels at sea, and not satisfied with that plunder, they often put on shore, and committed many robberies by land; and when they had gotten a good booty, would bend their course to other shores to act new villanies. Of late there were many of them three days on shore, and returned loaden with plunder; having, as I gathered from their discourse, robbed the queen of Mauritania of some choice treasures, which she esteemed very highly." Poliarchus hearing this, asked one of the pirates whom he had taken prisoner, if all these things were true? The man by his silence assented to all; but Poliarchus urged him hardest about their last robbery, whether they had pillaged the queen's treasures, by what means they had come at them, and where they had bestowed them? The man answered, that the report of her rich jewels had drawn them to this exploit. That

In the night seven of them stood in arms, as if by the queen's direction, to stop all men from passing that way, while two others with iron crows broke open a window, which was grated with bars of iron, and gained admittance: "When we had obtained our desires, (added he) we got away, and before day-light were got out at sea. Our booty is yet untouched, because we made haste from that coast, and soon after the storm overtook us; and besides, fearing the division of the spoils might occasion a contention among us, we agreed to let it rest, till we could share it in peace and safety."

Poliarchus then commanded the pirate to shew him the way to these spoils; he went under the hatches, and opening the chest, displayed a great treasure, for the most part consisting of jewels, such as are used by the women in Mauritania.

Upon this discovery, Poliarchus gave himself up to thought: it seemed as if fortune invited him to another course; the gods crossed and deferred his voyage into France;

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France, the storm had forced him from his intended voyage, he had got a ship whose crew was well acquainted with the coast of Africa, and it would be both injustice and cruelty, to conceal from the queen the recovery of her jewels. "Perhaps, said he, the gods take care of me, and provide for my glory, in disposing of me differently from my own purposes. That hope, which under the appearance of a private man, I conceived in Sicily, they will not have me pursue by the power and forces of my own country: that I might not owe my happiness to my country, station, or birth, but to myself alone. From Africa I can easily have notice of the affairs of Sicily, and give an account of my own proceedings to Argenis."

Having at length resolved, he thus spoke to the pirates: "I think it right and necessary, that the queen of Mauritania should have her treasures restored to her, and that you, the wickedest of men, should be given up to justice. We will therefore steer our course to Mauritania, lest you

B 6

should

should escape punishment, or some innocent persons there should suffer for your villany :” and immediately he caused the master of the ship to be freed from his chains, and placed at the helm; the rest that were chained to the oar he would not yet set at liberty, for he stood in need of rowers; and besides, he would not put it into the power of men, unknown to him, to do mischief to the rest; therefore seeking for the keys of their chains, he gave the charge of them to Gelanorus. Yet that they might seem to share in the victory, he spoke to them thus : “ Set forward, rowers, you are upon the brink of happiness; only land me safely on the coast of Mauritania, and so may heaven be gracious to me, I will give you all your liberty! For your own ransom, I require only this short and necessary labour; if the master be not deceived, it is but two days sail, to the place that will end my voyage and your captivity.”

The rowers, elated with so great a hope, exerted themselves as if every man were
going

going to his own house, and the dearest pledges of it; but the master told Poliarchus, that the genius of the sea would not permit dead bodies to be carried in the ship; it was offensive to the sea-gods, and this unseasonable piety to the dead, had often caused danger to the living. There lay three bodies on the deck, of men who were slain by the pirates in the fight. Poliarchus could not with untimely humanity oppose the superstition of the mariners, he therefore excused himself to the infernal gods, for casting them over-board; promising that as soon as he was arrived in Africa, he would appease their ghosts, and perform their obsequies. After this they took up the bodies of the slain; but that nothing might be lost, they began to search if they had any thing of value in their pockets: two of them had only a few pieces of coin, but the third had about his legs and thighs a swathing of broad ribbands, which, when one of the sailors had taken off, there fell down a letter, which had been put there for secrecy. Poliarchus called

called for it, but when he read the superscription, he trembled as at some monster; he broke the seal, and could scarcely believe his eyes, at these first words, "Lycogenes to Poliarchus—Health!"—admiring with the greatest astonishment, that Lycogenes should write to him, and that the letter should by such wonderful means come to his hands! He ordered the body to be raised up, and calling Gelanorus, bade him observe, and try to remember the face, which was not much altered by death; but it was no wonder they should not know him, being an obscure fellow, and one of Lycogenes's inferior servants. So after diligent search for other letters or papers about him, they cast him over-board, uncertain whether he was a friend or an enemy. This was the man whom Lycogenes had sent to Poliarchus: while Timonides stayed at his house, he had got before him, and being intercepted by the pirates, was slain in the fight; as if fortune were in doubt, whether that treacherous letter ought to be delivered.

Poliarchus,

Poliarchus, ignorant of this plot, while he read the letter leaned against the mast of the ship, and troubled both in mind and countenance, he shuddered at every word. Meleander was charged with poisoning, Lycogenes was the accuser! Meleander sought his death, Lycogenes his friendship. What was this bracelet? wherefore should Timonides be sent to him? He could hardly believe he read the letter, or that he was well awake. After a little pause, he recollected himself, and read it over again. "Some great affair is at hand, Gelanorus, (said he) I never feared Lycogenes more than now, that he takes care of my safety: if he had lived who was to have brought this letter, we might have got some light from him; now how to find out the truth of this, I know not."

Then he considered with himself, whether it was credible, that Meleander, under show of friendship, should destroy an innocent man. It was more suitable to the disposition of Lycogenes to bely the king, than to the king's to use so detestable a practice.

rice. The day was spent in meditations of this kind, and in the night his mind was disturbed with unquiet fancies. However, after many opinions, he thought it would be his wisest course to send Gelanorus into Sicily, with no letters to the king, only to deliver that of Lycogenes to him; as the truth would be most easily found out this way, since Meleander would be exceedingly troubled, to be made infamous by unsuccessful villany, or else to suffer by an unjust suspicion: so that by his words and countenance, Gelanorus might discover, what credit was to be given to this information of Lycogenes. Neither was he afraid by these means to offend Lycogenes; with whom (though Meleander should deserve to be esteemed an enemy) he was resolved to have no friendship.

This determination was strengthened by his infinite desire to write to Argenis, to whom he trusted no letters but by Arsidus and Gelanorus.

C H A P. XI.

Poliarchus arrives in Mauritania. A description of the queen's palace and gardens. Her affliction for the loss of a casket, which Poliarchus restores to her.

BY this time they were come within view of Lixa, the capital city of Mauritania, the delightful situation of which drew Poliarchus from his melancholy thoughts. The river, called also Lixa, fell so gently into the unresisting sea, that where they met there was neither noise nor foam, only a difference in the colour. All such trees as delight to grow by rivers, from each side of the chanel, with their pleasant shade seemed to sport upon the water. The city was great and populous, and wealthy by commerce. It stood (after you were got a little way from the sea) not above a furlong from the river. On the right hand from the sea to the city was a hill, the most beautiful in Africa, and
upon

upon it a country house called the queen's villa.

The queen loved to retire thither, when she was oppressed with business or cares, and after she was refreshed by solitude, would return chearfully to the toils of public business. It happened at this time that she was there, which when Poliarchus heard, he commanded his men to cast anchor as near as they could; and lest the rowers should raise any disturbance in his absence, he enquired of the natives, if there were no officers, to whom the magistrates had given charge of the port and rivers; and presently after the officers came to Poliarchus, to whom he spoke after this manner. "I leave the charge of this bark to you; it is of consequence to this country, while I communicate a secret of importance to the queen, which it is necessary she should hear from myself." Then he took the pirates, and ordered the chains to be taken from their legs, and put about their necks; then he caused a cord to be put through all their shackles,

and

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and gave it to the master of the ship, and sent him with them before him up the hill.

Poliarchus himself with Gelanorus followed them, surveying with a curious eye the beauties of the place, which the late horrors of the sea rendered the more pleasing. The situation was not indebted to art, but to nature only, whose better judgment had anticipated all studied labours of design. A rough and natural ascent to the hill, which the queen would not suffer to be altered, ran obliquely, so as it seemed rather to wind about than go up to the top. The left side of the hill was covered with thick shrubs, which with their different shades of green made a delightful variety; there were many little hillocks in the way till the brow of the hill, shaded with thick trees, rose suddenly to a great height; on the right side were pleasant vineyards and gardens, and at the foot of the hill, which made a semicircle, rich meadows clothed in cheerful green; near the top of it there was a large plain,

plain, on which the house was situated. When one came to the gate, there were still more beauties, such as pleased the eye with a free prospect of the country to a great distance. Before the gate was a place capable of containing many people, horses, and chariots, with a few but very large trees, under whose shade the guards had placed stone seats and marble tables.

As this place was very high, it shewed the windings of the river underneath it, the hills over against it, with the villas of nobility scattered about and upon them. From the right side of the house there was a view of the city, with several ascents in it, and the public buildings, palaces and temples. If the eye looked beyond, mount Atlas, with rugged winter and barren rocks, hiding his head in the clouds, would delight the mind of the spectator with a change of object, and with his roughness more endear the present happy situation. The house was not large for a palace, but it was greatly obliged to the architect : for which way
foever

soever the wind blew, it had free passage into it, to temper the heat of the climate; and the rooms had light enough, without being offended with the scorching heat of the sun. There was also a garden of no great extent, but worthy to be the mansion of the muses, and the residence of all the deities that preside over plants and flowers. From the house there was a gallery into it, adorned with statues and pictures, where the queen sometimes feasted her nobility and chosen friends. The left side of the orchard reclined over the top of the mountain, and both the house and gardens were joined to it by a continued ridge; that place was adorned with a beautiful fountain running through the trunk of a marble elephant, into a basin of stone work; but the right side was quite open to the prospect, having only a wall breast high to keep people from falling; and they who leaned over it, had a view of the fishponds underneath, where were kept fishes of many kinds; and the queen often took pleasure to throw bread out of
her

her garden to them, and see them strive for it. It would be tedious to particularize all the attempts of nature, who had sported with the inequalities of the place, and the beauties of the situation; the variety of trees, either native or foreign to the country, the natural and artificial caves and grottos yielding clear fountains and cool shades. As the queen loved to be private in these delightful walks, it was not allowed to any men but the officers of her household to come within this house or gardens, without her particular permission; and a party of her guards stood at the gate. Poliarchus coming up with his prisoners, the officer commanded him to go back, and with a military freedom questioned him, who he was, and whence he came. On which he told them his business was of consequence, and could only be communicated to the queen herself. This was reported to the captain of the guard, who came and spoke to Poliarchus, after which he informed the queen, that a young gentleman of excellent person and superior dress

dress and behaviour, who had brought certain prisoners with him, desired to be admitted to speak to her.

The queen at this time was retired thither not merely for recreation, but to indulge her grief in this solitude. The cause of her sorrows being that certain robbers had broken into a room where she deposited her jewels, and with them other treasures of great but secret importance. It was not the loss of her wealth that afflicted her; only one little casket, and that not very rich, which the robbers had taken away with the rest, caused her sadness, and almost brought her to despair. This casket she held dearer than her life; in it was contained the fate of her only son, and she now complained of the gods, as if they had carried him out to his funeral. When she was told of the coming of Polianthus, she was unwilling to receive him, as being obliged to use some ceremony; nevertheless, she commanded Micipsa, her high chamberlain, to introduce him: being now seated with her ladies standing about her,

on

on an ivory throne, supported by silver lions, which seemed oppress'd with the weight.

When Poliarchus came in her sight, she called to remembrance her absent son, who also was young and beautiful, and the thought moved her to favour him. He on his part saluted her in the most respectful manner. "Great queen, (said he) though the loss of those things that have lately been stolen from you may be of little concern to you, yet I thought it would be acceptable to so just a princess, that the robbers should not escape after so great a villainy, and go unpunished. I happened on them at sea, by the direction of the gods; I fought with them, many of them were slain in the engagement; three that survived I have brought alive, to receive their doom from you: they are now at your gate. Be pleased to send a trusty person with me, and I will restore all that they have taken from you, which is (as they tell me untouched) kept safely in my ship."

The

The queen, who was struck with surprise at so sudden and unexpected a joy, with female impatience leaped out of her seat, and holding the stranger fast by the hand, "Oh, thou most happy of all mortal men! (she exclaimed) or rather, if all this be true, worthy to be honoured equally with the gods! Bring me directly to thy ship; I shall best know the things I most esteem, I shall find their prey. But do not think me covetous; restore me only one little casket, and the rest I freely and thankfully bestow on thee." So saying, she shewed Poliarchus the way, who wondered at her eagerness. She would not stay till her chariot should be made ready, nor wait the bringing of her litter, as she was dressed in her private habit; but hastened forward, resolving to see with her own eyes. Her attendants, accustomed to observe her, followed her on foot, and the hurry they were in made it appear like a flight. When Poliarchus shewed her the pirates standing before the gate, she said, "Before I condemn others,

let me know if Fortune hath acquitted me." As she went on, all her court hastened after her. The greatest part of them knew nothing of the business; they stood amazed, and were the cause of amazement to others. The rumour soon spread to the city; but with uncertain conjectures. Some said the queen's son was come home, others that he was dead, and his body brought in that ship; some hit upon the truth, that the queen was gone to recover her stolen treasures: but all alike made speed towards the river, prepared to rejoice or lament as their mistress should set the example.

When the queen came to the sea-side, she walked over a bridge of planks to the ship; and when Poliarchus unlocked a great chest, and shewed her the contents undiminished, she burst into tears of joy, crying out, that now at length she lived again — now she was again a queen. She embraced the little casket, and said that Poliarchus was worthy to have divine honours paid him. He, with a modest smile, stopped

stopped her praises, and entreated her to forbear them. And now the litters were brought to the shore; the queen, thinking her villa too small to celebrate her joys, commanded them to return to the city.

She then leaned upon Poliarchus, in order to do him honour, and being led by him went to her litter, which was carried by eight men. And then Poliarchus mounted upon a horse they had brought for him out of the queen's stables, not bare after the manner of that country, but adorned with such trappings as were used by their kings in war or hunting. All the way to the city the queen conversed with him, putting by the curtains with her hand, and a throng of Africans attended them, whose eyes were bent upon him. After they came to the court, some of the nobility, by the queen's command, brought Poliarchus to the lodging appointed for him; and being there magnificently entertained, he was left alone with Gelanorus to take his repose.

C H A P. XII.

Poliarchus engages the master to carry Gelanorus to Sicily. His generosity to the sailors. He refuses the presents of the queen of Mauritania.

AFTER Poliarchus had recovered from the fatigues of his voyage and the trouble of company, he returned to his former cares, and at length, resolved to send Gelanorus into Sicily; for neither his love nor the obscure letter of Lycogenes would admit of delay; and he thought to remain at Clupea, a sea-port in Africa, till his messenger should return. Whilst he was writing to Argenis, he sent for the master of the vessel that brought him thither. When he came, "I restore to thee thy ship, and whatever was taken from thee by the pirates, upon this condition, that thou shalt carry this man (Gelanorus) into Sicily, and from thence back again to any port in Africa, that he shall chuse: at your return, your reward shall be ready and certain. Now I shall only furnish
your

your ship with necessaries for your voyage ; out of the rowers and captives chuse such as you think are proper and necessary : I will undertake to satisfy them for their labour, and I will distribute a talent among the rest, that they may not carry poverty home with them." The master called him his lord and patron, and was surprised at his bounty. Promising his best services, he was sent away to make ready his ship to sail the night following. When he carried this news to the sailors, they were so overjoyed, that he was in danger by their rude embraces to be pulled in pieces.

Towards evening, the noblemen sent by the queen, came to wait on Poliarchus : they were charged to let him want no kind of generous and hospitable entertainment ; and from his conference with them, he learned some intelligence of the queen's affairs : that she was called Hyanisé, and had succeeded her brother Juba in the kingdom, above three and twenty years ago. Before she came to the crown, she had been married to Syphax, one of the

chief men in the kingdom, who died just before king Juba leaving her with child. Some months after, the queen was delivered of a son, whom she called Hyempsal, who by the favour of the gods, in excellency of person and endowments, surpassed even the wishes and expectations of his people; that he was now departed to travel in quest of honour in foreign countries, none but the queen knowing whither he was gone. The Mauritanians, who gave him this information, cunningly sought to discover who and what he was, and which way he was going; but he, with equal cunning, eluded their enquiries. Being afterwards invited to sup with the queen, he spent some hours in her presence, being no less respected by all the court, than if he had come with the state and attendance of a king. Supper being ended, when he had taken leave of the queen, as purposing to depart on the morrow, and was returned to his apartment, there came in several persons, who covered the table with all kinds of riches: there were jewels of various kinds, some set in chains,

chains, some in bracelets, great store of pearls, and excepting the little casket, more in value than he had recovered from the pirates. All these the queen, as the reward of his merits or as a pledge of hospitality, presented to Poliarchus : but he, unaccustomed to sell his courtesies, or to be bought with gifts, praised the queen's generosity, but declined accepting the presents ; saying, that so trifling a service could not deserve such rewards, and beside, that such ornaments became not a soldier. He therefore desired them to carry back these things to the queen, together with his acknowledgments and excuse ; yet, that he might not seem to refuse them out of pride, he took a ring with an emerald set in it, and putting it on his finger, vowed that he would keep it as long as his hand, for so had the giver deserved. In the stone was cut, Atlas refusing lodging to Perseus, who mounted upon Pegasus, so held forth Medusa's head to Atlas, as to turn aside his face, lest he also should share the effects of it. Atlas looked as disdainful his metamor-

metamorphosis, his hair stood upright as growing into a wood, and in his face the change was apparent, as one no longer a man, and not yet a mountain.

In the mean time, the master came in, and told him that the wind was fair, and if Gelanorus pleased to go on board, they would soon leave Africa far behind them. Poliarchus therefore hastily gave him private instructions, what he should deliver to Meleander, what to Argenis, and what was proper to be imparted to Selenissa, to Archombrotus, and the rest of his friends. He also ordered him to enquire what the king had done about his house and furniture, whether they were confiscated, and who had the possession of them: as from these circumstances he might discover how the king stood affected to him. After he had performed this charge in Sicily, he was ordered to return with the first fair wind to Clupea, where he had determined to wait for him.

C H A P. XIII.

Poliarchus's sickness. Gelanorus arrives in Sicily. He visits Antenor, and meets Nicopompus and Hieroleander, who inform him of the death of Aldina.

AFTER the departure of Gelanorus, Poliarchus, being weary, disposed himself to rest. When he was in bed, his spirits, which had been kept up by incessant business, now relaxed. The wounds, which he received from the pirates, had been neglected, and were so much enflamed by bodily exercise and disquiet of mind, that a fever ensued. His illness, the next day, was so much encreased, that he was obliged to defer his intended journey; and the queen was no less alarmed, than if her son had lain on the bed of sickness: for besides the obligation she had received from Poliarchus, she remarked his virtuous and generous disposition, his discretion in conversation, his prudence in behaviour, and above all a presaging impulse of her mind, had wrought in her a most sincere and

heartly affection for him. As soon as she heard of his sickness she visited him, and brought her physicians with her. The noblemen, who attended her, gave signs of great concern. Gelanorus, ignorant of this accident, sailed with a fair wind for Sicily; but though they stood fair to land at Eipercté, he chose to pass by that port, and to put in at an obscure creek, lest any of his men should be known, or questioned concerning Poliarchus.

Being landed, he went directly to the temple of Apollo, not far from the shore towards Panormus, which was almost equally respected for the sake of the priest, as for the god himself. This priest was called Antenor, who, in a venerable old age, lived free from cares, and happy to his wishes. In his youth he had attained to great honours, and was thought worthy of the highest distinctions; but being warned of the nature of ambition, by observing the misfortunes of others, he chose that kind of life, which was most suitable to his genius, and dedicated his old age to the service of Apollo, who loved him,

and frequently inspired him with his own wisdom and sanctity. His mind was so fortified against all the evils of life, that nothing could disturb his chearfulness of temper. He was very learned, and of a lively and pleasant wit; besides, in conversation, all these qualities were adorned by the highest integrity of life and manners in this most excellent and beloved old man. He loved Poliarchus, and durst venture to commend him, though not yet publickly restored. Gelanorus, knowing him to be a most sincere and friendly man, turned out of his way to see him. He found him lying among his books, (for he was lame) as his manner was, wisely and chearfully conversing with his friends. While they were engaged in the first compliments, Nicopompus came in, who was one of Antenor's most intimate friends, and being fatigued with the cares and troubles of the court, sought to forget them awhile in the conversation of this venerable old man. Antenor seeing him, asked pleasantly, whether he came in pilgrimage to Phœbus or to himself. "To both,"

both," answered he. "But who is this other pilgrim that seeks counsel of Apollo? Art thou here, Gelanorus? May the god propitious grant that Poliarchus be not far off!"

Gelanorus thought it best to conceal the account of his master's various fortunes and present intentions, till he should first see and acquaint Argenis. He told them, that his lord was in Italy, and that he was sent by him to the king from the port of Baia.

While they were engaged in discourse, as if Fortune meant to make that day's happiness complete, Hierocleander came to the temple. He was secretary to Argenis, and of great merit in himself: he came often to the temple to visit Antenor; but at this time was sent by Argenis, to offer supplications to Apollo in her behalf. When he saw Gelanorus, and had embraced him, he unawares opened the way for him to make those enquiries for which he came into Sicily, complaining, with a look of concern, that Aldina was dead. Gelanorus, touched at the name of Aldina,

dina, looked earnestly upon Hieroleander. This was a beautiful little bitch, that Poliarchus used to be very fond of. After Poliarchus left Sicily, Hieroleander, by order of Argenis, sought her out, and kept her carefully, Argenis not chusing to take the animal herself, lest she might be suspected to love the creature for her master's sake. This creature was lately dead in whelping, to the great but secret grief of Argenis; but Hieroleander, being used to her company and fawnings, took her death still more impatiently: so that, for his sake, she was much spoken of at court, and yet more so by the attempts of several small poets, who, to insinuate themselves into his favour, strewed the laurels of Parnassus to grace her funeral.

Gelanorus conceived, that this mention of her death (though he wished her alive) would answer his purpose; for from thence he took occasion to enquire after the fate of his lord's effects, and who had possession of his house and his goods for their booty. But when he learned, that nothing was taken out of the house, but overseers were

were appointed by the king, to take care of every thing, and keep all for his master, and that Aldina only was taken away, that she might be better looked after, then he thought every thing went according to his wishes; and when he heard that Argenis was grieved for her death, he was satisfied touching the cause of her kindness and grief, and willingly hearkened to Nicopompus, while he repeated an epitaph made by himself upon Aldina.

Let us a faithful creature's obsequies,
 Destroy'd by fate untimely, solemnize!
 Oh cruel Venus, whom Aldina's throes
 In travail mov'd not, nor her master's woes!
 Her absent lord is to Apollo dear,
 And thou, his darling, must her envy bear;
 And, wanting power on him to wreck her hate,
 The vengeful goddess caus'd Aldina's fate.
 In peace and happiness her life she led,
 Belov'd while living, and lamented dead.
 Long will we mourn the fates severe decree,
 For those who love thy master weep for thee.

C H A P. XIV.

The author, under the character and design of Nicopompus, explains his own intention in writing this book.

GELANORUS commended the verses with the usual compliment; and then changing the discourse, lest he should seem uneasy at what he had heard of the fate of his lord's goods; "I am glad, said he, my friends, to hear that Sicily is in such a state, as that you have leisure to think and write upon such trifling subjects. From whence I presume, that you are now freed from your former disturbances, and from the danger of a civil war." "Alas! answered Nicopompus, this is but a time of truce, with which we endeavour to beguile our afflictions, that we may take breath, and recover strength and courage sufficient to bear the burthens our fates are preparing for us." Then Gelanorus began to enquire more freely, whether Lycogenes continued faithful; whether the peace still held firm; or if the rebellion

rebellion had again broken out? They then told him that all things were in a state of uncertainty; that Eristhenes and Oloödemus were in prison; Lycogenes up in arms, and the prince and the people mutually dissatisfied with each other, to the ruin of both.

Then Nicopompus, whether inflamed with heat of youth and temper, or that often beholding the mischiefs in the court and state, had raised his indignation, began a long complaint, not only against fortune, but of Lycogenes, of the people, and even of the king himself.

“How long (said he) shall our passions and prejudices stand in the place of reason? In the mean while, we take no example from our ancestors, or our own misconduct. How much better had it been (I speak freely to you, my friends) for the king to look back to his predecessors, and to take warning from their wisdom or their errors, to avoid the evils we complain of; than, being wounded, to suffer a painful cure. And for these factious men, with what pretence will they colour their rebellion, which

which has so frequently been infamous in former times? Let them boast that they do it in support of the commonwealth, or that they will show the king the right way to serve the gods, and to rule his people. The gods, so long neglected and contemned, will not avow their impious arms; nor will their country, covered with blood and desolation, acknowledge their services. With whatever pretences they may palliate and defend their wickedness, it is long since other rebels have made use of the same excuses. The gods have inflamed my mind with an inspiration that seems almost divine. I abhor this factious spirit. I will fight against it. I will revenge my king and country. And that you may not think this work above my strength, know that the gods have given to me the armour and weapons of learning; the wounds given by these, so they be guided by truth and moderation, are not to be resisted by strength, neither are they easily to be healed. I will obey this powerful impulse, and guide my pen with a free hand; I will remark wherein the king hath

hath erred; and then will I, from the history of former times, fetch another to save him from shipwreck. Thus will I pull off the mask from faction, and discover her face, and shew the people what they ought to hope and fear, by what means they may recover themselves, and by what methods the obstinate and perverse shall meet their ruin. Finally, I will not conceal from my countrymen their errors and follies, not even, if thou, my dear Antenor, shouldst persuade me!"

The good priest shook his head, and smiling, answered him; "I would much rather advise thee to repress this passion, for to whom, and to what end wilt thou write? Wilt thou take this way to admonish the king? surely that were better done privately. But what a manner of advising is this? Suppose that you have observed him more attentively than others, would you therefore add to the dislike that the people have conceived against him, by publishing his faults to all the world; what greater mischief could his worst enemies do him? nay, in that you are
thought

thought his friend, you will be the more readily believed, and thus do him more harm than all his enemies together. But you say, you will unmask faction, and display her to the people. Out of the wisdom of past times, you will penetrate into the counsels of the gods, and foretel the issue of these disturbances, as if they could be frightened at your presages. Think you, that those men, who fear not the gods, but have plunged into the guilt of rebellion, and are already in arms, will be quieted by your philosophy? Spare your pains, Nicopompus! for this kind of wisdom is long since exploded; they are not ignorant of the nature of their offence, nor will they receive warning, who desire not to amend. But suppose you could deliver such powerful documents of wisdom, as might allay the passions of such as would hear them, as some disorders are cured by musick; yet, how many, think you, would find leisure to read them? You would be read by such as prefer railing to eloquence, such as take pleasure in hearing and speaking ill of the great, or
else

else by school pedants, who, knowing nothing of the affairs of the world, take their maxims of government only from their books. Wilt thou write to such men as these, Nicopompus? Wilt thou build thy fame upon their applauses? I say nothing of the danger that is incurred by this liberty of speech. Those who feel your admonitions the most, will most hate you, as the author and publisher of their infamy."

Nicopompus paused at these objections of Antenor: "Your words, divine prophet, (said he) would strike me with most just fear, if I were indeed a railer, or were blown up with pride and self-conceit, to take upon myself to be a censurer of the times, a vanity too common among us. Who remembers not examples enough of such as seeking applause, have met with punishment? But far different is my purpose, my good Antenor! Know you not how children are induced to take physic? When they see the medicine, they reject that health that is purchased by nauseous potions; but those who have the charge
of

of them, either qualify the bitter draught by a mixture of sweets, or entice them by gifts to their cure, or else deceiving them by a gilded cup, suffer them not to see what they take. So will I do; not with bitter words calling men up to the bar of my judicature, to answer for troubling the commonwealth; I could not endure the public hatred, resulting from such conduct: but I will lead them on, with such delightful circumstances, I will so circumvent them unawares, that even themselves shall be pleased, to hear their own follies exposed, under other names and characters." Antenor, attentive to these words, desired him to explain the manner, in which he would conduct so ingenious a fiction? "I will do it thus (said he;) I will compose a stately fable, in the manner of a true history; in it I will fold up strange events. I will speak of arms, bloodshed, marriages, and pleasures; I will blend all these together with various and unexpected successes. The natural curiosity that is ingrafted in men, will induce them to read my book, and they will come the more willingly,

willingly, because they find me not a harsh or severe instructor. I will feed their minds with diverse contemplations, as it were, with a fine landscape; with the apprehension of danger I will excite pity, fear, and horror; when they are perplexed, I will calm the tempests I have raised; whom I please I will deliver from danger, and whom I please I will give up to their evil destiny. I know my countrymen; because I seem to tell them a pleasant tale, I shall have them all: they will love my book as they do the theatre, or any public spectacle. So bringing them first to relish the potion, I will afterwards put in wholesome herbs. I will draw virtues and vices, and both shall have their due reward; while they read, and are affected with pleasure or indignation, I will hold up the glass, and present their own image before them: they shall discover their own errors and the fame of them; perhaps, they may be ashamed to play any longer those parts upon the stage of life, for which they feel themselves justly reprehended in a fable. And lest they should
say

say they are traduced, no man's character shall be fully drawn, for I will so disguise them, that some part shall entirely disagree with the person who seems pointed at; for I, who write not a true history, may take this liberty; so shall the vices, and not the men be struck at. Neither can any man take exceptions, but such as, with a most shameful confession, own the wickedness there exposed. Besides, I will feign names that shall personate virtues and vices; so that he shall be equally deceived, that would wrest all my designs to a true relation of facts, with him that would have nothing allude to any late or present transactions."

Antenor was delighted with this newly invented kind of writing, and merrily rubbing his hands, he said, "Bestow, I beseech you, Nicopompus, this labour upon the commonwealth; you owe it to yourself, as well as to the age and country we live in; such a book must needs be immortalized, and make the author's name glorious to posterity. Besides the infinite benefit, in laying open the frauds and practices

practices of wicked men, and arming virtue and honesty against them." Nicompus replied: "Your approbation, most holy man, is both my encouragement and reward; upon your authority I will proceed, while my spirits are raised, and my mind is warm with the conceit. I will give the reins to my imagination, and pour out the effusions of my soul in strains, not unlike the raptures of poetry. I will directly weave my story; I will not forget thee, Gelanorus, nor yet thy noble master, Poliarchus." And so saying, lest the ardour with which the gods had inspired him, should grow cool and be lost, he took leave hastily. As soon as he got home, scarcely allowing himself time to eat his supper, he called for his table-books, and even then begun his most useful and delightful story.

CHAP. XV.

Gelanorus presents Lycogenes's letter to the king. Cleobulus discovers the authors of the poison in the bracelet. The examination, guilt, and death of Oloödemus and Eristhenes.

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proved the coming of Gelanorus; but her joy was abated by a doubt, whether Gelanorus was come without Poliarchus, or whether he himself was concealed in Sicily, and sought a private opportunity to see and speak to her: she thought at least, she should hear by Gelanorus where he was, how he did, what he would have her do, and what himself was about. No less did Gelanorus desire to speak with the princess, but it was his chance to meet with Eurimedes, and as he could not conceal that he was sent to the king, he was by him brought directly into his presence; to whom, with a countenance and air, neither proud nor yet dejected, he spoke briefly in this manner:

“Poliarchus, oh king, wishes you all health! and sends you this letter, written by Lycogenes to him, that your majesty may neither think him ignorant, nor yet believe him easily to credit all that is told him of your designs against him.” After this he delivers the letter, which the king read over attentively; he was troubled at this new and infamous aspersion cast upon him.

him, and sent instantly for Cleobulus and Eurimedes, to whom he communicated the contents of this letter. They could say nothing more, than that this was a dark affair, and full of doubt and danger. They examined Gelanorus strictly, first with intreaties, and after with menaces, yet they could not discover any thing, by which the treachery of Lycogenes could be clearly proved. He told them, as the truth was, that this letter was found among the spoils of the man that was slain, and that neither he, nor Poliarchus, knew any more of the matter. "Neither do I, Gelanorus, said the king, see any light to guide us through this dark business. Argenis, by my command, did send a bracelet to Poliarchus; Timonides was appointed to carry it; but of the poison, I know nothing; nor can I guess, how Lycogenes should come to know any thing of the bracelet: but keep this affair to thyself, nor let any one know what thou hast revealed to me; it shall be the care of the gods, and mine also, to bring to light the wickedness of our enemies." He then

asked Gelanorus, where he had left Poliarchus and Timonides? who assured him that Poliarchus had not seen, either the bracelet or its bearer, Timonides; whom, in his passage from Rhegium, a storm had driven out of his course, and tossed about on divers coasts. After his conference with the king was ended, he went to Selinissa, and as soon as he had an opportunity delivered his letters to Argenis, and told her what his lord had given in charge; that Poliarchus was in Africa, and would stay there till she should determine on what their affairs required for both. If there were need of arms, he would not alone, nor as a private man, return again to Sicily; or if any other way seemed better to her, she should command him as she thought proper; intreating her in the mean time, not to suffer the memory of their vows to be impaired by absence: adding, that he would accept it as no small proof of her regard, if she would acquaint him, whether or no he were truly forewarned by Lycogenes.

Argenis

Argenis was much affected at this fear in Poliarchus, and the undeserved reproach upon her father; she solemnly affirmed, that her father was innocent of any such intention, that Poliarchus injured him by the suspicion; that if any such thing had been thought of, he might believe, she would not have been more backward than Lycogenes, to give him notice of it. But when Gelanorus spoke of the danger of Poliarchus, of his shipwreck, of his wonderful deliverance, and of his farther conflict with the pirates, still more dangerous than the winds and waves; she, not able to bear the imagination of so many perils, now calls to Gelanorus to stop—and then again to proceed—trembling at every word, as if the danger were still present, and inevitable.

The king was all this time under great perplexity, having continually in his thoughts the bracelet, the poison, and the letter of Lycogenes. He had been two whole days ruminating upon this business, when Arsidas and Timonides came to the court, whose first intention was, to bring

news (as they believed) of Poliarchus's shipwreck; they supposing Gelanorus to have perished with him, were amazed at the sight of him living: and being now suddenly sent for to the king, to know, if they could give any information concerning this letter of Lycogenes; Argenis also was present, with Cleobulus and Eurimedes. They giving an account of their employment, produced the box with the bracelet, the cause of so much uneasiness. They told, that Poliarchus was departed from Arctas, before Timonides came to Rhegium; and that being deceived by probable reasons, they had lamented him as certainly lost. When Gelanorus meeting them here, had freed them from despair, assuring them that his lord was alive and in health. The king then delivers them the letter of Lycogenes to Poliarchus, at which they stood astonished. But Cleobulus, searching more deeply into these things, called out, "Let us see the bracelet, whether by the lining untainted we can convict him of falshood, or if by being infected, it gives colour to the accusation."

sation." While they handled and untied it, they presently observed in the silk lining, greenish spots of a different colour. "Is not this, said Cleobulus, the poison of which Lycogenes speaks? But let us examine, by whose means this present is made a deadly one. Never trust any conjectures, Sir, if this treachery proceed not from Lycogenes himself and his associates; for Eristhenes, who is now your prisoner, had this bracelet in his custody. I suppose that by his diligence, or the falsehood of some of your servants, he suspected this present to be designed for Poliarchus; and so by poisoning the bracelet, sought to take away his life and your honour: but, by the favour of the gods, all is fallen out for the best, and these traitors are caught in their own trap. Oloödemus and Eristhenes we have in our hands, and though they are guilty of secret crimes, we have not been able hitherto to convict them of such open villany, as should satisfy the people for their punishment; but if this treachery be proved upon them, every man will give his voice for their condemnation."

tion." Then the king commanded Cleobulus to try and sift out this matter, according to his own judicious conjectures; but he alledged, that this might be better done by Eurimedes, and briefly instructed him how to manage the business.

Eurimedes accepted the charge, and went directly to the prison, where Eristhenes was confined; and (as Cleobulus had directed) from the door spoke to him, seeming overwhelmed with grief: "At last, Eristhenes (said he) you have triumphed over Poliarchus! he is dead of the poison with which you infected the bracelet. But will you also, like Oloödemus, glory in your mischief?" At hearing this, Eristhenes was struck with surprise, and remained speechless. He readily believed what he had long wished for, and yet his conscience was wounded, at being charged with the crime. Why should he farther dissemble, since Oloödemus had confessed the fact? He had no time to consider of the matter, nor to recollect himself, for Eurimedes urged him to answer. "It is well, said he; let the fates dispose of me at their

their pleasure, it is enough for me to have outlived Poliarchus, the enemy of Sicily !” Then Eurimedes taking the matter for granted, cunningly dived into their secrets, till at length he mentioned the treachery of Lycogenes, who had thrown the infamy of this action upon the innocent king. Eristhenes with a smile acknowledged the contrivance, and Eurimedes soon after informed the king of his confession ; and that now nothing remained, but to draw the same from Oloödemus, and then to make use of the evidence of both.

Meleander rejoiced that this treachery was so happily discovered, and commending Eurimedes, he sent him to Oloödemus. But he, being quicker of apprehension, when he was examined concerning the poison, asked more questions himself. Being told that Eristhenes had confessed the fact, he supposing it only a trick, answered, that he did not believe Eristhenes was guilty of so great a crime, or if he were, himself had no hand in it. But at last, Eurimedes overcame his ob-

stinacy by this piece of policy ; he placed Oloödemus in a closet, from whence he might hear him in discourse with Eristhenes, who to shew his constancy of mind, denied not his own offence, nor that of his accomplices, till he provoked Oloödemus beyond all patience, and he cried out, " Oh, Eristhenes ! thou art either foolish and unfit for any trust, or else a traitor to thy friends !" Then putting back the curtain between them, he called him the ruin of his friends, saying, that he deserved to suffer alone that punishment which he had brought upon many. Eristhenes, now too late, perceived that he had been deluded by Eurimedes, and that Oloödemus had confessed nothing ; he therefore, in such language as the time and his grief allowed, excused his error to Oloödemus,

And now this affair being fully disclosed, and depositions taken, they were carried into separate prisons ; and the day following were brought to a public tryal, where the king allowed all the people to be present, lest the faction and their followers should traduce his proceedings as not lawful

ful and equitable. Though the king was assured of the fidelity of the Eiperctans, yet, he ordered a guard to be placed at a convenient distance from the court of justice, that in case any disturbance should arise, the prisoners might easily be conveyed back to the castle.

The people being summoned to the trial by a cryer, came in multitudes, and the king's advocate spoke to this effect. "That the people knew how dearly the king loved them, nor did he doubt of their affection to him, therefore he had summoned them to this trial, that his injuries might be redressed by the voices and approbation of his loving subjects; and that they might bear witness to the justice of their punishment; therefore they should be allowed to give their opinions before the judges. There were thirty judges, who sat upon capital crimes, before whom the prisoners were brought. The king's advocate laid open, point by point, their many and heinous offences, in holding correspondence with the king's enemies; he spoke of their endeavour to escape from

court; but he enlarged more particularly upon the poison, and the infamous aspersion thrown upon the king. Then he produced their confessions, the witnesses who heard them, and also their own letters, which so incensed the Eiperctans, that, not waiting for the sentence, they cried out to have them stoned. The advocate intreated them to forbear, and wait for the judges sentence; it was necessary that the prisoners should be heard publicly, for that their own guilt and their own words, would more effectually convict them than his accusation: and that the king would allow them more time if they required it, to make their defence. He then called upon them to speak for themselves; but they, in so bad a cause, had nothing to say, the crime could not be denied, nor the people satisfied: they therefore said but little, and that more against the king than for themselves. The judges then put their suffrages into the urn, which being opened, the lots were found all black, and the criminals condemned to death accordingly.

They

They were presently carried back to prison, and being convicted of poisoning, were justly condemned to die by poison. There using their last liberty, which both law and custom allows to dying men, they breathed many curses against the king, called upon Lycogenes to revenge their death; and besought the infernal gods, that their enemies might live to envy their death. At length the fatal cup was brought them, which Oloödemus first snatched from the executioner's hand. "Come on, said he, let us drink confusion to Meleander! we shall do him more harm by our deaths than he imagines we should have done living." This said, he drank it off immediately. Being filled again it was brought to Eristhenes; he took it frowning, and looking about, he said, "Will any man here remind my friends how much they owe to Meleander." Having drank the poison, they were both told by the executioner, to walk about as far as the room would allow; that the poison being sooner dispersed through their bodies, that they might die with less pain. They followed

followed his counsel, till they perceived the vital heat forsake the extreme parts; when their feet grew cold, they lay down upon a bed; there the poison working like a mist upon their senses, they languished into sleep, till a sudden start shewed that the venom had reached the vital parts, and soon after they expired.

C H A P. XVI.

Lycogenes endeavours to rescue the prisoners; but failing, they prepare for war on both sides.

THE king, well knowing how dangerous an enemy he had in Lycogenes; on the day the prisoners were put to death, sent Eurimedes with a troop of horse to surprize him unawares; for Lycogenes, after the taking of Oloödemus and Eristhenes, had not yet declared war, but stood on his defence, having a guard of soldiers about him; but still seeking a reconciliation, that he might either get
the

the prisoners into his hands, or else cast upon the king the reproach of an implacable tyrant. And that it might be believed, that he sincerely wished for peace, he solicited Dunalbius by letter, to use his influence with the king, to dissuade him from farther proceedings against the captives, and to set them at liberty; and whatever hatred or suspicion there was in him, he would sacrifice it to the public peace and quietness. Dunalbius, while he seemed to give credit to his letter, and to negotiate with the king, over-reached Lycogenes with his own artifices; for he, in hopes of deceiving the king, and delivering his friends, retarded his preparations, till the king had leisure to provide for his affairs. When the king sent to apprehend him, some of the faction got before Eurimedes, and advertised him of the death of his friends, and of his own danger. It was about supper time, and he had invited a great number of military men to his feast, to whom he thus spoke: "That you may not think, my fellow soldiers, that we are met to no purpose, know that I invite
you

you to the funeral supper for Oloödemus and Eristhenes! They are dead by the cruelty of Meleander, and unless I am preserved by your assistance, I also must perish in the same storm. Behold the tyrant's guards are even at my gates, with orders for my destruction! What shall afterwards become of you, what of our fellow subjects, I think no man can doubt. When he spills thus freely the blood of men of the first distinction, can you think he will be more sparing of that of others? I do not, fellow soldiers, desire you to provide for my safety, unless you perceive it to be inseparable from your own."

With these words he started up, and the rest throwing down the tables, ran to their arms. The whole house was in an uproar with the speed of so many soldiers providing for their own and their leader's safety; some were sent away to bring more assistance from the next quarter, a select party under Menocritus were ordered to meet Eurimedes, and with an ambush in the valley to surprise him being tired with his march. The skirmish was

disorderly, because before they had placed their ambush, Eurimedes was upon them, who was yet no more prepared for the encounter than they were. The soldiers fought valiantly on both sides. Eurimedes was vexed that Lycogenes, being forewarned, could not be surpris'd; but though he was in the enemies quarter, and with unequal forces, yet he could not bear to escape by flight. He therefore retired slowly, and Lycogenes suffered him to retreat in good order, either because he feared some stratagem, or was hindered from the pursuit by the darkness of the night.

There were not many slain in this night's skirmish: but as Lycogenes was supposed to have the advantage, encouraged by the eagerness of his soldiers, he sent every way for his friends, and gave them arms, which he had ready for them. He wrote to the magistrates of many cities, to give him their best assistance as author of the public liberty; and many were ready to revolt from their good and gracious king, who had grown great under his mild and gentle

gentle government. A lesson to all men, that a king of the greatest virtues may be contemned, unless there be added to it an opinion of his wisdom, valour, and fortitude ; and that no princes are more faithfully beloved by their people, than such as have deserved to be feared and respected.

Sicily at this time presented a sad spectacle to all men ; religion banished, the laws neglected, the ways unsafe for travellers, the houses and streets subject to rapine, rage, and fury, and at length only camps were seen in the deserted fields, which appeared glittering with arms and ensigns of war. The people being in their first fit of madness, were insensible how much more they suffered under many tyrants, than those evils which they sought to revenge upon their king. Yet there were many that withstood the torrent of rebellion ; respect to the rights and lawful state remained in four cities, besides Eipercté, which were Messina, Panormus, Catanea, and in the center of the island Enna.

And

And now Lycogenes openly usurped the power and ensigns of a king, only he forbore the name. At table he sat under a canopy, he wore in the camp a purple robe and a short sword by his side ; in his behaviour courteous or severe in the extreme, that he might retain or awe the rough soldiers into obedience. Meleander, no less vigilant, at several times raised a great number of men. Eipercté, plentifully stored with all kinds of necessaries, and strongly fortified, was made the magazine for the war. All the king's galleys that continued faithful were brought into that port. The king was extremely attentive, both in the service of the gods, and in the duties of his office. He commanded all law-suits to be suspended, and every one to devote his time to the service of heaven and of his country. By these means he hoped to quiet those minds, that were carried away by the fury of the times : and lest the infection should creep in among his own soldiers, he resolved by solemn sacrifices to purify the army. He therefore went to the camp at the foot of the

the mountain of Eipercté, and from thence with the officers and the images of the gods, in procession into the fields, where the priests had set up the altars. All the army under their colours had put on garlands to celebrate these rites, also their spears and darts were adorned with green wreaths. In the mean time, the sacrifices were slain with all ceremony; a bull, a he-goat, and a ram, were led round three times by the priests, with their robes tucked up, and then brought before the altars. Then the king offered his prayers to the gods, that they would favour those whose cause was just, that if any of them had been adverse hitherto, being now appeased, they would become propitious to him; that his army might be safe in the divine protection; and that his enemies might fail in strength, courage, and judgment; and further, if they would grant him safety and victory, he vowed, out of the spoils of his enemies, to build a temple to Jupiter the Preserver, to Mars, to Minerva, and to all the powers in heaven that preside over peace and war; and also,
that

that he would institute public shews to be yearly exhibited, on the prizes of which should be engraved the benefits of the gods to the island of Sicily.

While he is offering these vows, the victims were slain, and the soothsayer took the entrails yet panting into his hand. When he beheld the liver sound and perfect, but inclosed in a thick skin, he assured them, that the entrails promised success, but that it would come slowly, and attended with much care and labour. After this the soldiers practised all kind of warlike exercises, shaking their spears, and shouting as if the enemy were near at hand. They then encountered in a feigned battle, and, after a bloodless skirmish, they all returned to the camp.

CHAP. XVII.

A dispute between Nicopompus and an astrologer. Cleobulus advises the king to reward the man and dismiss him.

DURING the remainder of the day, Meleander was troubled with other cares, though not very different in their nature; for a certain Assyrian, who had travelled into many countries under pretence of acquiring wisdom, but in reality to make ostentation of his own, was now in Sicily; and professing the science of astrology, sold the fooleries of his art to such people, as through vain credulity desired to know the disposition of the stars at their birth, and what fortune should befall them through their lives and at their death. It was not thought criminal in those days to enquire into the fates of princes, or to cast their nativity. When this man therefore magnified his knowledge, scarcely giving place to the prescience of the gods, and told many stories, how often the event had proved the truth

of his predictions, whether fortunate or unhappy, and how many had been punished for slighting his warnings, or deriding his prophecies; at length, the report of him came to the ear of Archombrotus, to whom being sent for, with a long discourse on the power of the celestial influences, he so persuaded him, being a young man and a lover, that he desired to know by his art, what fortune should attend his love. The Chaldean promised him to declare faithfully whatever the stars portended. "But why (said he) should private men only seek to discover the issue of future events? Why doth not Meleander command me to observe the disposition of the stars, and declare the event of this impending war?" His speech pleased Archombrotus, by whose persuasion the king also sent to the Chaldean, with as much hope as to an oracle. He, full of the hope of reward, and foreseeing better things for himself than for the king, comes directly to the court. Being asked, by what god, or what science, he was enabled to pierce into the obscurity of

of future events, he thus answered: "It is not, O king! by such spirits as magicians are wont to raise from the cliffs of the earth, that we foretel what is to come to pass; neither do we delude men by confused and ambiguous oracles: it is the study of our nation to know the course of the stars, and the influence of the heavens. We first found out the course of the sun, we first discovered the bright and trackless paths of the heavenly luminaries, and distinguished them by their names and orbits; our contemplations being free, in a clear air, untroubled with clouds or mists; for in Assyria there is seldom rain, frost, or wind, to intercept our view of the heavens. While we are employed in these contemplations, we find that all earthly things are governed by the stars, and that there are no other destinies that rule over the birth and life of man. Let me but know the hour and minute in which thy mother brought thee forth, I will then draw a scheme of the heavens, with houses for the stars; in them will I place those planets that ruled

at

“It at thy birth: Jupiter, Sol, and Venus, are the best; Saturn with Mars the worst; Mercury and the Moon are variable, according to their situations. I will find which of them was predominant at thy nativity, and in what degree, and with what aspect the rest either tempered or enflamed him, and in them will I clearly read whatever fortune has decreed for thee.”

The confidence of the man, and the greatness of his promises, moved Meleander's curiosity to make trial of his art; but while many were admiring and commending him, Nicopompus, who happened to be present, with a smile of derision thus addressed him: “My good friend, you who have gotten the knowledge and power of the gods into your own hands, be bold to give law to our hopes and fears; and if any here are so weak or so credulous as to desire to be cheated, do them the favour to cozen them at their own request.” The curiosity of Meleander and the rest was somewhat abated by this sarcasm: they therefore enquired what was meant by this speech of Nicopompus;

pompus ; whether he intended to decry the art itself, or the persons that used it. The king particularly asked him, why he spoke so rudely to a stranger. “ Why (said he) should I not rebuke this impostor, who assumes a greater power over you than those stars have, which he so vainly prates of ? For whatever he shall foretel, the quiet of your mind will be disturbed by continual expectation of the event, more than it could be moved by the motions of the stars themselves. So will this tyrant reign over you, laying all the blame of your ill fortune upon the stars ; but if he vouchsafe to foretel any good, you are to think yourself indebted to him for it. I will myself, without casting a figure, tell you all that he can do for you : he will take a large sheet of paper, and torment it with lines and figures, laughing inwardly, if he be wise. After which he will, with affected gravity, promise you good success in all things ; for such a prediction will be most likely to obtain favour and reward. This is the sum of his art, and these answers, which he will sell you.

I freely

I freely give you for nothing; but I will forbear the person of the man, and arraign the art, since your silence, my lord and king, and this man's earnest look, call for a more serious reply. You say, astrologer, that by the position of the stars, and by their influence at the moment the children are born, their fortunes, life and death, are determined; yet you confess that the heavenly bodies are carried about with such rapidity, that they are changed every moment: if then the celerity of their motions be so great, as that thought cannot follow them, how is it possible, that you should tell any man his fortunes with certainty, when it is uncertain under what exact position he was born? Do you believe, that the midwife's business is to observe the hours and minutes, in order to lay by the situation of the stars for the childrens patrimony? Doth not rather the mother's distress and danger employ their care and attention? How seldom are those present at the birth influenced by this superstition? But even, if there should be some present, who make

it their care to take an observation of the stars, yet, if the child be long in the birth, or if any part be born before the rest, what situation of the stars shall govern his destiny? That at which his hand, or his head, or his whole body was born? But besides, since all the instruments to measure time vary, how will you know the exact point of time, or that either the friends of the child, or the philosopher himself, has made a true observation at the birth of the infant? But suppose there is no mistake, but that you have rightly taken the situation of the stars at the birth of the person, whose nativity you calculate, yet from whence are you assured, that the stars have such a sovereign power over our bodies or our minds? Shall I from them expect my happiness, or depend on them only for the ordering the course of my life, or the manner of my death? Why then should men undertake any business of importance? Why should they go to war, follow merchandize, or have any pursuit, if their fate be already determined? Again, consider of
the

the number of people born in the same moment, will you say they are all born to the same fate? You see the king here, do you think all who were born in the same moment with him shall govern kingdoms? Or can you demonstrate, that they were born under a fortunate aspect of the stars, or even that they are all this day alive? Look upon Cleobulus here—upon yourself! Are all born with him as wise as he, or in such high estimation? Or all, born with you, astrologers, to say no worse? Can the stars assure a man of preferment, that must be obtained by the voices of others? Can they command other men, not born under their influence, to confer this dignity upon them? This vanity I should condemn of folly or ignorance; but these names are very short of the heinousness of it; it is a most execrable superstition: for what becomes of the free-will of man, if he cannot avoid the influence of the stars? For why should I take any care of my health of body or mind? Why should I labour to attain virtue and honour, and resolve to avoid

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vice, if it is absolutely determined by the stars what I must be? But do I only lament the loss of human liberty? No; the gifts and favours of the gods themselves are worth nothing! No more will I throw away incense, nor offer up my prayers. I need neither to fear nor seek the favour of the gods, if they cannot, or will not, alter what the stars have decreed for me! If this notion prevails, we have nothing to do, but to pray for our children before they are born, that the stars may be favourable at the moment of their birth. I will tell you what I once saw at Mergania: a certain man was so infected with this superstition, that he would not have commerce with his wife, till he had taken an observation, and knew the situation of the stars. If the Dragon's Tail surrounded some of them, or the Scorpion with his embraces troubled them, or any other aspect in the heavens frowned upon him, he was sure to lie alone. Would you know the event? He had several children, and all of them either fools or madmen."

Meleander

Meleander and the rest laughed at the story of the Merganian, and the astrologer stood confounded; he offered many arguments in defence of his art, but Nicopompus answered him sharply, and defeated all his attempts, sometimes by serious reasonings, at others, by taunting reproofs; and at length he drew towards a conclusion, by the following observations. “ I delay, said he, too long, our enquiry into the fate of Sicily. But, why does not this man know his own destiny? Why did you not foresee that I should this day fall heavy upon you? Why did you not give a proof of your art, by foretelling that some person would be here to destroy all the force of your arguments? Or to come still nearer, why do not you, who understand so well the fate of kings and kingdoms, take care of your own fortune? Why do you not, from your foreknowledge of things, avoid all the evils of life, and pursue your own felicity? When I was in Phrygia, there was an old woman, who got her living by this trick of fortune-telling; it happened that a valuable piece

of plate was stolen out of a rich citizen's house. He that had lost it, went with a friend to the cunning woman, vainly assuring himself that she would tell him how to catch the thief, and recover his plate. It was early in the morning, and the old woman was just opening her door, on the threshold of which, some of her neighbours had laid a heap of dung, which stunk extremely. She stood fretting at the affront; "If I did but know, said she, what rascal had played me this trick, by Apollo I would cram this filth down his own throat!" Upon this, he who came to enquire of her, turned to his companion; "Why, said he, should we throw away our money? Can this woman tell who has robbed us, that knows not who hath affronted her in this manner?" So he went back from the sybil faster than he came.

A certain poet composed an epigram upon this occasion, which is still in my memory, and because it is short I will repeat it.

Stars, lots, Apollo's secret doom,
And birds fore-knowing fates to come!

You

THE PHENIX.

81

You the old hag, with wrinkles dire,
Raging invokes in that attire
In which she shakes the labouring moon,
Tells kingdoms fates, and gods fore-doom;
What thoughts within each bosom dwell.
She knows, and can for money tell.
One thing is still to her unknown,
Who at her door this dung has thrown.
Who is the knave, Apollo, say?
In vain old sybil dost thou pray;
For father Phœbus to thy nose
Has left this secret to disclose.

When Nicopompus had finished his story, the king, leaning on Cleobulus, withdrew, and the rest followed, jesting at the astrologer. But Cleobulus advised the king, though he were an idle companion, not to send him away discontented, since in such a case, he was likely enough to report, that the stars threatened the state and the king, and that he might infect the soldiers with his superstition. They therefore called him, who was now dejected, and gave him thanks for his profered service; but told him the present times did not permit them to make use of him, neither did it suit the majesty of a king, to enquire into his fate, as if he

doubted of the victory in a just cause; nevertheless, that his good-will should not go unrewarded; and then gave the juggler half a talent, to buy off the injury they thought it might be in his power to do them.

C H A P. XVIII.

The preparations of Lycogenes. The siege of Enna and Catana. The uneasiness of Argenis and Archombrotus. Gelanorus takes leave. The taking of Enna. The art of Lycogenes.

AFTER this they were obliged to attend to affairs of consequence, for their messengers brought repeated accounts of Lycogenes's preparations. In the king's army there were not above ten thousand men compleatly armed: the number of horsemen was two thousand; archers and slingers three thousand five hundred, thirty chariots armed with scythes. Ten large ships of war, and of other ships, double the number.

number. As for the Hypererphani, they revolted not generally, but every one, as his opinion was, took the side of the king or Lycogenes. But this tempest in the commonwealth, had brought a much greater strength to the party of Lycogenes. He mustered his men near Syracuse, and ranged them under proper officers. Thirty thousand foot, and six thousand horse, gave in their names to be enrolled. And that they might not want a fortunate omen, the first man whose name was entered, was called NICON, which the superstition of the vulgar took for a presage of good success. Lycogenes knew well that his reign would last no longer than the people's madness; therefore, while this heat was at its height, he marched his army against the king. On the other side, that prince drew out his forces by the side of a small river, which had worn a deep hollow channel by the current of its waters. The river had lately overflowed the banks, and the moisture of the earth made it unfit for marching; by the help of this obstacle, a small number

of men were able to stop the passage of Lycogenes. He came on boldly, and attempted to fetch a compass about this wet and dangerous ground; but wherever he tried to cross the river, the king's soldiers intercepted him; therefore, lest he should lose time, he sent Anasimander, his sister's son, and Menocritus, brother to Oloödemus, with a party of chosen men, to besiege Enna and Catana; and in the mean time, there were every day several skirmishes between the two armies, with different success, but nothing decisive.

Who would believe, that in the midst of tumults, and even in the instant of danger, any other passion or thought could be entertained? Yet, were Argenis and Archombrotus oppressed with secret cares, of a far different kind than those which openly appeared. The princess having her mind wholly fixed on Poliarchus and his virtues, wasted her spirits in solitary grief, until her bodily health was likewise affected. She would often say, that Lycogenes's ancient enemy, who was used to triumph over him, ought presently to be recalled.

recalled. But different thoughts perplexed Archombrotus; disquieted with the bitter sweetness of uncertain hope, he sometimes cursed the war that drew him to the field, and prevented his declaration of love: sometimes he rejoiced, that he had now an opportunity of shewing his valour, and out of both these respects he grew more enraged against the enemy. He often accused himself for being there alone in this danger of Meleander and Argenis; that he ought to have raised an army for their assistance, and by so weighty a benefit have shewn at once the greatness of his love and of his birth: and certainly he would have done so, but that it required a long time to inform his own country of the danger of Sicily, to raise soldiers there, and then to transport them hither; but the danger of Meleander was instant and imminent, and could not wait for such slow relief. Nor did he think less of Poliarclus, whom jealousy continually presented to his mind; he therefore began to speak slightly of him to the king, yet so, as not to discover his hatred openly. He
attributed

attributed it to fullness and resentment, that Poliarchus, when he sent Lycogenes's letter to the king, did not also write himself; that either out of pride or negligence, he had forgotten the duty he owed to the king and himself; and concluded, that therefore the king would injure his own dignity by writing to him first. Thus, by degrees, the king's ears were accustomed to this unkind and artful language; which he listened to the more readily, because he suspected no difference between Poliarchus and Archombrotus. But Gelanorus soon discovered, that Archombrotus was differently affected towards his lord, than at the time of his departure. But seeing him in high favour at court, he imputed the alteration to fortune, which makes men often refuse to acknowledge an old acquaintance, as either disgraceful or burthen some to present greatness. In the mean time, by the direction of Argenis, he set in order his lord's house and family; for he had taken possession of it by the king's commands; so that all men concluded Poliarchus would soon arrive. Gelanorus

norus was desirous to return to Africa, but was long hindered by unforeseen delays. At length, the king, prompted by Archombrotus, suffered him to take leave, without making him any present, or speaking kindly to him.

He bid him tell Poliarchus that he was a king, and not an assassin; that Oloödemus and Eristhenes by their deaths had cleared him from that aspersion; that he knew not the reason of Lycogenes's writing to Poliarchus, any more than why Poliarchus did not write to him upon that occasion. Gelanorus, moved with this unexpected bitterness of the king, could hardly restrain his anger; yet, remembering that he spoke to a monarch, he replied briefly, that Poliarchus would not only write, but presently be there; that if he had done any thing wrong, he might make satisfaction. With these words, putting Meleander, who now feared every thing, into a confusion of thoughts, he left him, and went to Argenis; to whom he told how unkindly the king had spoken of Poliarchus. She was hardly able to refrain from

tears ; “ The gods, said she, have left nothing undone to ruin me and Poliarchus ; parted and unhappy, we are tormented with each other’s grief. To this is added, the danger I am in from Lycogenes, of losing the kingdom, my inheritance, which I know will give fresh grief to Poliarchus. What good will it do him, already laden with many sorrows, to know of my father’s anger towards him, whom I think verily no evil intention, but the calamity of the times have thus changed ? If I may request any thing of you, Gelanorus, promise me, both for his sake and mine, that he shall not know it. I will take care that my father shall repent of his error, and love Poliarchus as formerly. Your silence shall be rewarded in whatever way you can expect or desire ; but in vain shall you hope to conceal it from me, if you acquaint your lord : I will certainly find it out, though he should promise you to keep it secret : if ever the fates restore him to me, I will oblige him to discover it, and to know whether you have deceived me ; and what power I have over him no man knows.

knows better than yourself." Gelanorus promised to obey her faithfully, and she delivered to him her letters to Poliarchus, in which she entreated him with all speed to come over to Sicily, saying, that her wishes were, if the fates ordained Lycogenes to be overthrown, he might be his conqueror; but if the gods decreed a worse fortune to herself and her father, he might help to protect them in their flight. After this she sent away Gelanorus, laden with rewards, to his ship.

Now Enna had been two months besieged: at length their provisions failed, and they had no hopes of a supply from the king. Having therefore lost all but their loyalty, they sent commissioners to Lycogenes to treat of a surrender; and he, glad of an opportunity to shew his advantage and clemency at the same time, answered, that he desired nothing of them, but that they would be happy, and that they might be reunited to the whole body of Sicily, which they had inconsiderately opposed. Some of them desired a safe conduct to the king's army, which being granted,

granted, they brought more fear than strength to his side, magnifying the miseries of Enna, and the strength of the besiegers, in order to excuse themselves for giving up the town.

After the taking of Enna, Lycogenes boldly insulted the king's army, and by many devices attempted to pass the river and marsh defended by the king. Meleander, finding the place no longer tenable, in the first watch caused fires to be kindled all over his camp, that the enemy might not perceive they left it; and without sound of drum or trumpet, withdrew his army into the fields under Eipercté. The next day Lycogenes followed him, covering all the fields with his victorious army, making a terrible appearance, while his soldiers rudely expressed their triumph and confidence by loud and barbarous shoutings.

C H A P. XIX.

The perplexity of Meleander. The king of Sardinia brings assistance to Sicily.

THE king was unable to sleep, being perplexed with so many cares. Sometimes he thought it best to risque a battle, sometimes to defend himself within the city; then he would give up all as lost, and think of flying into Africa. Deprived of rest, he forsook his bed by break of day, and walked alone in his garden, from whence there was a free prospect to the sea. There he revolved within his mind the difficulties that surrounded him, and the most honourable course to decide his own fate and that of Sicily. In this tempest of disquietude, he cast his amazed eyes upon the sea. The mists that rose from the mountains being dispersed by the rising sun, it presented a strange and terrible object to his perplexed mind. The sea was covered with ships near the mouth of the harbour, with their sails spread, seeming

seeming to bring a new war and new fears towards him. A powerful navy came proudly on, making a glorious appearance, with spreading sails, glittering of arms, and a great number of men. When they came within reach of the engines, the whole fleet suddenly cast anchor. The king, concluding the worst, gave himself up for lost, and stamping on the ground exclaimed, "Woe is me ! The fates deny me to escape by flight ! Behold the navy of Lycogenes ! Behold an armed force to block up the harbour ! But all this is come upon me deservedly. This chance will compel me to use a just and manly fortitude ; and what I ought to have done by choice, must now be done of necessity. But in what manner shall I meet them ? Shall I oppose my weak navy against theirs, unequal in strength, number and fortune ? Or shall I take a better course, and turn upon Lycogenes in a land-fight ? Yes, I will meet him, and at least die in my own Sicily !"

Thus resolved, and desiring nothing but to die honourably, he calls for the nearest

nearest of his servants, and shews them the terrible appearance at sea, and commands a pinnace to be sent out to discover and bring certain information of this suspected navy. Archombrotus, ever forward to face every danger, offered himself for this service; but the king checked his heat of youth and courage, and bad him reserve himself for worthier dangers. In the mean time, they saw a small bark rowing from the fleet to the port: Timonides being sent to receive them, and know their business, soon perceived good signs of better fortune than he expected; for in the bark was an herald, who, that he might not be mistaken for an enemy, had his head and the wand he held in his hand crowned with olive wreaths. He did not declare to Timonides who he was, but desired to speak to the king.

Meleander's fears were now abated, and he instantly admitted him to his presence, to whom he thus spoke: "Radrobanus, king of Sardinia, and the isles of the Baleares, sends this token of contracted friendship to thee, Meleander,
king

king of Sicily. If it shall please thee to compare it, thou wilt find it the same that passed between your fathers." Thus saying, he delivered half a ring, upon which was engraved a hand of gold, which when united with the other half met with another hand held out in the same manner, as giving itself in token of friendship. "Then (said the herald again) dost thou, O king, acknowledge this friendship?" The king accepted it, and confessed that the other half was in his custody. "Your guest and friend (said he) is here upon your seas with the best troops in his kingdom, which he has brought in his fleet to your assistance: for hearing that you were disturbed by a rebellion of your disloyal subjects, he could not bear (being your ancient friend) that such an example against the lawful authority of kings should go unpunished."

Meleander held his peace, scarcely yet believing so sudden a benefit of the gods, yet he shewed his constancy of mind, in that his countenance was not changed. "Herald, (said he) return to thy king; and

and say that I now forgive the infatuation of my people, since it has been the means of procuring me the sight and assistance of so great and generous a friend. Let him now directly enter Sicily, and he shall find us as ready to do him honour, as he hath been to deserve it."

After this audience, the herald was carried to a short refreshment. In the mean time the king called a council with his friends, and asked them, whether it were fitting that he should go to Radirobanes, or by his nobles seek some stronger assurances of his faith. They were of divers opinions, not daring to distrust, nor yet entirely give credit to so great a happiness. Why should Radirobanes be at so much cost and pains for another's benefit? Excessive courtesy is always to be suspected; it was scarcely credible, that he should fit out so great a fleet for Meleander's sake more than for his own: "For (said the king) there were many disputes between his father and mine, after which there were leagues of friendship, because both sides being rather tired of *war* than of *hatred* ;

now

now whether they bring aid or treachery is uncertain : what am I to think of it?"

But Cleobulus affirmed, there was no doubt to be made, that the king ought to go to Radirobanes ; for if he came as a friend, it was very opportunely ; but if as an enemy, and in aid of Lycogenes, it was impossible for the king to withstand both sea and land conspiring against him : and it was more suitable to the majesty of a prince to be deceived under pretence of friendship, than to be conquered by open force. " You ask (continued he) from whence should spring this love of Radirobanes to Meleander ? Either I am mistaken, or he, a young king, and eager of glory, hath taken this occasion to acquire honour in this war, and to open the way by his deserts to the marriage of your daughter. He will therefore fight as for himself, being so much the more a friend to Sicily, and the more regardful of your majesty, as he will hope to be himself adopted into your family, and to succeed to your throne."

And

And indeed Cleobulus was in the right ; for the fame of Argenis, and the desire to obtain the crown of Sicily, to which that lady was the undoubted heiress, had moved Radiobanes to this expedition. He had a fleet in readiness, which he secretly designed against Mauritania ; but hearing of the troubles in Sicily, he deferred his intentions against Africa, and with a more laudable resolution failed to the assistance of Meleander.

C H A P. XX.

Meleander goes to receive Radiobanes. The joy of the Sicilians. The jealousy of Archombrotus.

ARCHOMBROTUS, who was present at this consultation, was highly offended at the mention of marriage with Argenis ; he was so incensed both at Radiobanes and Cleobulus, that the perturbation of his mind might have been dis-

covered in his countenance; yet he presumed not to contradict it, nor did he speak at all.

But the king approving the opinion of Cleobulus, some were presently sent to the port, to make ready the king's barge. In time of peace the king took pleasure in going about in it near the shore; it was not large, carrying only eight oars, and the same number of passengers. Being ornamented with many figures of gold and silver, it made the water round it shine with the lustre of the images.

Near the stern, in small letters of gold, these verses were written:

Fair sea-born queen, this little boat doth crave
As thine own shell thy patronage to have!
This was not built for cruel war's alarms,
When Mars appears, and fierce Bellona arms;
When ships encounter on the trembling waves;
Nor can she stand rough Boreas—when he raves,
And in the water's course himself enfolds,
She steering near the shore, her safe course holds.
When fair Cymothoë singing on the rocks,
Combs off the south-wind's dew from her green locks,
Then dares she venture to the farthest shores,
And her great master trust with fewest oars.

If

If we preserve thy Ery honour'd grave,
Do not our king to the winds' mercy leave!
Hold thou the rudder in thine own fair hand,
And of this boat vouchsafe to take command!
If o'er the curled waves thou smooth the way,
Helen and her two brothers shall obey.
Incessant storms all worldly greatness drive,
And as in raging storms do monarchs live.

The seats were covered with purple, and in the stern was a seat like a throne, but wide enough for two persons to sit in. Eurimedes was left to guard the castle, while Arfidas was sent before in a small skiff, to give notice to Radirobanes, of the coming of Meleander. The news spread quickly over all Eipercté, that the Sardinians were come with a powerful army and navy to help their friends, the Sicilians; which was readily believed. So that suddenly they were elated, not only with hope, but assurance of victory, who but lately were dejected. They thronged into the market place, clapping their hands, and congratulating each other upon their common safety: neither were they less joyful who were left to guard the walls. But when the king went down to the harbour, the

air resounded with acclamations ; which with the trumpets and other instruments of war, made a noise that reached to the enemies camp. Lycogenes had the presumption to suppose, that the king's army having lost all hope, were coming like desperate men, to seek their deaths at his hand. He therefore thus spoke to those about him: " This day is the last of our labours, for we shall but afford them means to die, from whom we have taken the means to live. Go, therefore, and call the soldiers to the spoils they have deserved ; since the gods, that our victory might be the more welcome, have sent it sooner than we could hope or expect."

Thus speaking, he sets his army in array ; and by looks, words, and actions, becomes an example of courage and resolution to them all. He then sends forth scouts, to bring certain notice of the enemies approach, who went almost to the king's camp, and finding no signs of an engagement, they returned to their tents, reporting, that there was nothing to be seen in the field ; but from the city they
heard

heard great noises of shouting, as of men who celebrated the festivals of Bacchus, and that the country rung with the sound of drums and trumpets. Lycogenes was struck with this presage of his declining fortune, yet he set his army in readiness for an engagement; and sent out some of his soldiers, in the habits of countrymen, to discover what was going forward in Eipercté, and without danger to themselves, to inform him of their motions.

By this time Arfidas had spoken to Radirobanes, and shewed him the barges in the harbour, wherein Meleander was coming to him. Radirobanes's admiral-ship was magnificently adorned, and many streamers for shew hung playing in the wind, from the sails and yard-arms; at the stern the figure of Helen and her two brothers were seen, distinguished by three golden stars. The sailors, who were all handsomely dressed in blue uniforms, plyed in their offices, or shewed their dexterity by mounting the masts and sail-yards as if they flew. The soldiers had on their richest arms and accoutrements, and the

king was surrounded by all the pomp of majesty. From the vessel's side were stairs of wood, covered with blue tapestry, on the top of which stood Radiobanes in a kingly robe, girt about him with a girdle of gold and needle-work, ready to receive Meleander; his hair hanging down to his shoulders, somewhat more curiously dressed than became a soldier. The first in his favour, and next his person, was an old Ligurian, who had been his governor, and since he became a man he did not so much follow his advice, as acquaint him with his resolutions; he was called Virtiganes. The king at this time was conversing with him and Arfidas, looking towards Sicily and praising the country with superfluous compliments, for those felicities and qualities, of which he was yet unacquainted.

At length Meleander's barge came to the ship's side, and he, supported by Archombrotus, ascended the stairs, till he came high enough for Radiobanes to give him his hand; and then they embraced each other like old and familiar friends. Meleander gave him thanks for his free
and

and generous assistance; and he, speaking with exceeding modesty of the benefit, made it appear the greater.

After the first compliments, the one received the salutations of the Sardinian nobles, the other of those of the Sicilians, then they saluted each other as friends and guests. Presently after, Radirobanes unrequested went down into Meleander's barge, who had first put himself in his power by coming into his ship; while the shore and ships resounded with the shouts of the sailors on both sides, applauding the mutual confidence of the two kings, who trusted in their integrity, and the rites of hospitality, in freely and pleasantly conversing together. Oh miserable greatness, that seldom tastes the happiness of private life, nor enjoys the sweetness of conversation, without suspicion or jealousy! When the two kings were landed, they renewed their embraces and compliments. From thence Radirobanes, after he had upon the shore worshipped the gods of Sicily, was conducted by Meleander, who gave him the upper hand, to their horses,

which stood ready for them. Then, surrounded by the nobles and attendants of both, they proceeded first to the city, and thence to the castle. The noblemen of Sicily that night gave a welcome to those of Sardinia: they contended who should entertain them, which they did with such joy and cordiality, that they seemed to have forgotten the danger of the impending war.

But all these things gave Archombrotus little pleasure, who saw a rival coming forward, so powerful and serviceable, that it would be ungrateful both in Meleander and Argenis, not to love him. Therefore, whilst others were entertaining their new allies, he, pretending more necessary business, went to the ramparts, as by the king's command, to survey the watch, admonishing them not to be secure or careless, in confidence of the assistance of their new friends, but to keep careful guard, as mirth and security often give the enemy an opportunity to do mischief. But when he was got away from the crowd, he walked alone upon the ramparts with his
head

head reclined, and his arms crossed upon his breast: overwhelmed with confused thoughts, he knew not where to begin his complaint.

“O ye just gods, (said he) you have punished my fault! I hated Poliarchus, I prevented the return of the man I once sincerely loved, only to make way for a more dangerous rival. To Poliarchus these hands, at least this heart, had made me equal. But what power have I to equal Radiobanes? He comes, not trusting in his own desert, but in the strength and riches of his dominions: he comes against me more than Lycogenes; and if I love Argenis the best, how can I oppose him who best hath served her — him who hath found the way to confer favours before he asks for any?”

And now he became impatient; stamping fiercely, and quickening his pace, he kept silent for a while; then again, with a disdainful smile, he renewed his complaints against Fortune. “Behold, (said he) now three of us pretend to Argenis! Three aspire to that blessing which but one

can enjoy, to say nothing of others, who, for ought I know, may be as desperate as myself! Wretch that I am! will not the number of her admirers daily encrease, or do I think none but myself capable of discerning her beauties or merits? But there will be time enough to think of others, let me now only be careful, that this storm from Radiobanes sink not my hopeless vessel. While Lycogenes lives, all contention is unseasonable. Doubtless, he will not carry off the prize before the victory: how many changes happen in the course of war! Perhaps this boaster may be slain in the field, or presuming upon the merits of his services, he may become suspected by Meleander. This war will afford me opportunities to signalize myself, and do me honour with the king of Sicily. In the mean time, I must dissemble both my love and resentment, and live at peace with him, against whom my heart declares war."

Having composed his mind with this resolution, he came back to the watch, and again admonished them to be careful.

Eurimides and the other officers repeated the same directions ; but the soldiers nevertheless kept the watch in the midst of their cups and garlands. The next morning the kings, with their principal officers, held a council of war. The troops of Radirobanes were on board his ships, and he knowing it would breed suspicion, if he should desire to bring them into the city, prevented the doubts of Meleander, who wisely concealed his distrust on this occasion. “ In this fleet, (said he) which now rides at anchor, I have brought eight thousand men completely armed, and four thousand archers and slingers : I have also many young and active horsemen ; but, in regard to the inconvenience, I shipped but few horses : if you will furnish them, I will find riders. But that Lycogenes may no longer go unpunished, we will, if you please, land the army ; and because the rocky shore affords but one way into the city, let but one company at a time be admitted within the walls ; when that is out of the gates, and passed to the quarter, which you shall appoint at the

foot of the hill, then a second shall march through, and in like manner all the rest, and the guard at each gate shall be of your own soldiers, to admit and send them into the field."

Meleander replied, there was no occasion for so much care, since nothing could be feared from those soldiers, who had been under the discipline of Radiobanes; but if he chose to have a guard at the gates, he should appoint them of his own men: for he should never think himself in more safety, than in the hands of his friend. With such words and compliments the kings contended, who should shew the greatest confidence in the other.

But when the Sardinians and Balearians were landed, both the kings went on horseback to the market-place to view them and give directions. Radiobanes was dressed in golden armour, with a purple cassock over it, his head all bare, except a regal diadem. Meleander likewise was armed, and with far more dignity and composure in his looks, drew all mens eyes and good wishes towards him. The
Balearians

Balearians first entered the city: they were slingers, and reckoned the most expert of all nations in the use of that weapon, which they practised from their childhood; they were reported to kill a bird in its flight, and it was counted a dishonour to miss their aim. The Sardinians followed next, being armed after the Punic manner: they were covered by their broad smooth shields, their short swords hung on their belts, which they used after they had spent their darts, their helmets being mostly brass, with terrible crests, representing the heads of wild beasts with grinning and extended jaws. The whole day was scarcely long enough for this great army to pass through the city. Archombrotus and Timonides were stationed in Meleander's camp to receive the strangers as they came down from the city, and shew them the quarter appointed for them. They drew an intrenchment for themselves, and fortified their enlarged camp. Meleander furnished them with provisions of all kinds, and commanded his men to entertain.

tain them, to accept their invitations in turn, and to cultivate their friendship by all the rites of hospitality.

CHAP. XXI.

Doubts and fears arise in the army of Lycogenes. He harangues and marshals his army. Meleander offers pardon to all that will lay down their arms, on which many of the rebels return to their duty.

IN the camp of Lycogenes all things wore a different appearance; for after they had certain information of the arrival of Radirobanes with auxiliary forces, fear restored many of them to their right minds. Then they began to be sensible of their boldness and presumption in defying their king; they thought the gods were determined to revenge the wrongs of insulted majesty, and their troubled minds, from daily and common accidents, fancied continual omens of ill success. These terrors were augmented by the cheerfulness

ness of the kings, who, confiding in their strength and courage, would no longer remain in the city, as if they were besieged, but advanced their camp from the foot of the mountain, within sight of the enemy, that, if he refused to fight, they might either force him out of his intrenchment, or else block him up in it. The goodness of the cause, and the dignity of the generals, are of the utmost importance in war. The camp of the kings appeared awful and venerable; the tents of Meleander and Radiobanes shone with the ensigns of sovereign majesty, and animated their soldiers with hope, while their enemies were dispirited, and reflected on the baseness of their cause.

Lycogenes wished for nothing more than to come to battle immediately, for he knew that these fears would increase among his men, and was glad the kings desired an engagement. Early in the morning, his scouts brought word, that the royal army were drawn out in battle array; therefore, that this fierce man might not seem backward to engage, he
hung

hung out a red ensign from the top of his tent for a signal of battle. Then he passed through his camp, labouring to infuse hope and courage into his men, speaking sometimes to the officers, then to the soldiers. "What have we to fear, (said he) who are already invincible by so many victories? Meleander is held back from flight only by these Sardinian pirates, who are come hither, not out of love to him, but with the hope of plunder: if we gain the victory, these fine auxiliaries will with all speed rob and spoil Eipercté, and return with their booty on board their ships, seeking some other place, where they may do the same mischief. But suppose them faithful to Meleander, do you think they will spend their blood for strangers? No, if you play the men, they will turn their backs, and leave Meleander to himself. To conclude, you will consider, that all warlike enterprises are attended with some danger and hazard; but seldom is there offered so much honour and glory as now, that two kings together may be your prey or your prisoners."

Having

Having ended his speech, when the soldiers were drawn out in order of battle, after the Spartan rites, he, sacrificed a young dog to Mars. The Enyalian, brother of Bellona, and the soothsayer, whom he had hired for that purpose, gave out that the offering was accepted. Then the army was thus disposed: the right wing was led by Menocritus, the brother of Oloödemus, who hated the king, both on account of his attachment to the faction, and in resentment for his brother's death. In the left wing, Lycogenes placed his new-raised troops, and such as he suspected, under the command of Nabides: they were flanked by the marshes, that having no retreat they might fight it out bravely. Himself was in the center, with the flower of his army: he was proudly mounted, and his countenance enflamed with various passions, as one who knew on that day's success it depended, whether he should gain a crown or lose his life. Thus situated, he waited for the enemy to advance, when from the royal army a horseman came forth, whom a party of soldiers

soldiers followed at a distance as for his guard. He came as far as the middle space between the two armies, and then stopped, seeming by his gestures to demand a parley. Lycogenes sent out a single person, with the same number of attendants, supposing it might be some youths about the king, who desired to begin the fight by a single combat between the two armies, and proudly challenged an opponent. But one of those sent out soon returned, and declared that it was an herald sent by Meleander. The whole army were filled with expectation, to know what the enemy had to say: what treaty could there be between those armed against each other, and just ready to engage in mortal war! As soon as the herald had obtained an audience, he spoke after this manner: "The king offers a free pardon to all that shall repent of their past rashness, and return to his camp before night. In regard to what is past, no law nor justice shall take cognizance of it, but all shall be forgotten; and pardon he proclaims upon his own royal word

word and faith." Having thus spoken, he scattered among them many billets to the same effect, and then turning his horse, rode back to his company. Above twenty soldiers heard his words, who being returned to their ranks, there presently rose a murmur among the troops, of those that enquired, and those who related the herald's declaration.

Lycogenes was vexed to see many of his men, contrary to his expectation, greedily listening to these tidings; but dissembling his fears, "Fellow soldiers, (said he) we must obey Meleander, let us go to him; but let us go armed. I take this for a good omen, that he invites us to his camp: there are good hopes that we shall succeed in it as conquerors." In the midst of his speech, word was brought, that the kings would not give battle that day, but had drawn out a part of their army upon rising ground, to receive such as should come over to them. At which being enraged, he exclaimed; "But we will draw out those who attempt to corrupt our fidelity, and force them to dispute it by strength, and not

not by base cunning. Go every one to your colours! March on, my soldiers, with the gods to assist you! Go and tread those wretches under your feet, who now, by their own confession, are not able to withstand you!" But the soldiers went reluctantly about their charge. He saw them whispering among themselves, and perceived, that the courage of most of them was daunted, and this was increased by the going over of Acegoras, who first made a tryal of the king's promise. He was a man of note, respected both for his birth and followers, and had taken part with Lycogenes, more through the fault of the times, than his own. Knowing that the hope of pardon and favour lay open to him, who should first seek it, with forty soldiers and several of his friends he crossed the field between the two armies, and at the first guard in Meleander's camp laid down his arms, and being brought before the king, he spoke thus. "I fear not, Sire, to be called a fugitive, for I depart from an unjust faction to put myself under a just and lawful command: but I have
this

this comfort left, that being one of the last to join with Lycogenes, I am the first to return to my due obedience." The king briefly commended him, and promised to reward him, who had shewed the others the way to their duty. He then sent him to Archombrotus, to whom orders were given to be careful of those who should come over, lest any mischief should be practised under colour of reconciliation. He therefore brought them into a field, that lay under view of the kings camp, and pawning his faith for their safety, left them there disarmed : but to Acegoras, and two of his friends, their arms were restored, in respect to their noble birth, and themselves placed among the nobility near the king's person.

But in the army of Lycogenes, most of the troops apparently were staggered in their fidelity, many from both the wings slipt away unseen, others followed their fellow soldiers. At length Lycogenes, drawing his resolution from necessity, got upon a hillock raised with turf, and prayed, that they would at the least hear him in silence.

"By what name (said he) shall I call you?

My

My fellow soldiers — or what, for your sakes, I am ashamed of, my enemies? Yet by whatever name you may chuse to be called, that no man may stile you traitors, runaways, betrayers of your general, I here discharge you — I dismiss you — go home, countrymen! You followed not this war for my sake, but to use my advice and assistance; but I release you of your oaths, I will no longer labour for your safety; for to confer benefits on men against their wills, is often accounted tyranny. I would have rendered you safe and happy, I would have made you conquerors, you were upon the point of being so; but now, by a base confession of your cowardice, you offer your necks to a provoked and insulted enemy. What panic, what fury, hath bereft you of your wits, Oh my soldiers? I pity your situation still more than I am ashamed of your levity. But go your way like sacrifices, whether Meleander will put you to death now, or reserve you till he can take his revenge with more security. For my part, I thank the gods that they have shewn me
your

your inconstancy before the battle ! Otherwise your cowardice might have disheartened my best soldiers, who now, by your departure, will be purged of all corruption. The gods forbid that Sicily should be so abandoned, but that still a great number should remain sound and true to the interest of their country ! These I do even now discern from the rest, and perceive them to be more moved with indignation at your folly, than at the loss of such companions."

After this speech he descended, and again repeated that he gave free leave to as many as would to depart. This freedom of their so late beloved general made great numbers of them ashamed; many therefore resolved to run all hazards with him, especially such as had been guilty of other offences, and those whom poverty made to look upon peace as their greatest punishment. Others, in the mean time, departed in small companies, and through bye ways, to the king's camp; there were not less than fifteen thousand in all who yielded themselves. Meleander often affirmed,

affirmed, that he would have been sorry to have purchased the victory with the lives of so many subjects as that day restored to him.

Lycogenes was struck to the heart at so great a loss. He returned to his camp with those, whose fidelity the desertion of the rest had given him full proof of; but the kings, having thus obtained a bloodless victory, could scarce give admittance to so many as came to congratulate them. Every man, according to his degree, pressing to kiss their hands, their clothes, their horses, and even the ground they had trodden upon.

C H A P. XXII.

A discourse on the bones of a Giant, and of the Cyclops. An eruption of mount Ætna, and the taking of Anaximander. Of the antiquities of Sicily.

WHEN the kings returned to their quarters, they were received with a presage that by the soothsayers was accounted very fortunate. For as Meleander's servants were removing his tent to a more convenient place, they dug holes to set the posts in, and found there certain bones, which seemed to have been part of a human body; but far exceeding the ordinary stature of the men of that age. No body doubted, but that these were relics of the race of the Cyclops, and the augurs interpreted, that all the land of Sicily should be subjected to the power of Meleander; for nothing had been, at any time, more powerful in Sicily, than the Cyclops, who now were found lying in his tent, under his feet. Meleander and Ra-

dirobanes were hardly got within the trenches, when the flattering soothsayers presented the fragments of these vast bodies before them. Radirobanes was much more astonished than Meleander, who had before seen bones of the Cyclops. But the king of Sardinia, who till then had esteemed those tales as fabulous, when he handled the bones and saw Meleander scarcely moved at the sight, as if it were familiar to him, began to enquire more seriously about this nation of the Cyclops, what they were, whence derived, and how they became extinct? Meleander having committed to Eurimedes the care of the watch, chearfully applied himself to discourse upon the subject; having many Sardinians about him, and pleased to be questioned concerning the ancient monuments of his own Sicily, he thus began:

“Some believe, the whole race of the Cyclops to have been wild and savage; while others affirm, that they were not only worshippers of the gods, but also of divine lineage themselves: but it is agreed by all, that they were of extraordinary stature;

ture; and this might be the cause of the error of strangers, who fancied that impious minds must inhabit such vast and stupendous bodies; and fearing their strength, they dared not enter into conference with them, but made haste to their ships.

“But (besides many other reasons I have) an argument drawn from the old religion of the Greeks, persuades me not to believe them cruel or wicked; for on the Isthmus of Corinth, there is an ancient custom of sacrificing to the Cyclops, as to superior beings. Their origin, laws, manners, and customs, the ignorance of antiquity hath concealed from us; but there is a tradition that they dwelt chiefly in the caves about Ætna and Leontium: and they are said to be begotten by Neptune, upon whom our ancestors seem to have fathered all the heroes of extraordinary strength and stature. Nor need we wonder that so few traces of them should remain, for they were seated here before Saturn; since whose time so many ages are past, that the ruins of Chamaſomus, which was the principal

cipal town he built in this island, are not to be found. Only the sepulchres of the Cyclops are remaining, for the most part in caves, either changed by earthquakes, overflowed by water, or covered with ruins. Yet sometimes we have undesignedly lighted upon them; what huge carcases, what fierce countenances, how worthy to authorise the stories related of them!

“I was once hunting near Syracusa, in the field which they call Gereates; a hound stood at bay at the mouth of an unknown cave, which drew us that way by his continual yelpings, till we perceived the horrors of this unfrequented place, which struck me with an awful reverence. I was desirous to search further into what the gods had shewn us, and causing the bushes to be cut away from the entrance, from thence I viewed as much as the light of that passage would allow; and saw a flight of stone stairs which led into a deep cavern. I sent for lights, and with a small company went under ground, which was filled with a damp and thick
air.

air. Having passed through the entry, we came into a very large vault, arched over and shining with gravel, stones, and other congelations. In the midst was a huge stone, which seemed as if it grew there, and upon it lay a burthen prodigious and terrible to behold. I am almost afraid to relate it; for how can I expect that you, my guest, should credit that, which I could hardly trust my own hands and eyes to believe? Yet I will tell it to convince you that I really saw it.—There lay upon this stone a huge bulk, in human shape; only the size would not suffer us to believe it a human body. We approached it slowly, doubting if it were not something supernatural; the head preserved the hair uncorrupted, and retained the form of the countenance; the beard, which was of the same colour with the hair of the head, hung down upon the breast of this monstrous figure! What shall I say of his limbs? His legs and arms, of a stupendous size, yet well proportioned. If a workman made this, I should have thought it altogether a fine Colossal statue; but if a work

of nature, how came we, a weak and diminutive race of men, that we are, to fall so short of it?

“After a time my astonishment (as is usual) being abated, I took courage to touch it in order to find what it was; when I perceived, that wherever I laid my hand it fell into dust, which convinced us all that it was in reality a human carcass. Lest the proportion should be unknown, before it was too much defaced, we measured the length of it, and found it above twenty cubits. I would have done reverence to it as a demy-god, and have left it unviolated; but my people touching it reduced it presently to a heap of ashes. There remained only the scull, the ribs, and the thigh-bones. These I ordered to be preserved, and hung them up in the temple of Neptune at Syracusa, where you, my dearest guest, may see and admire them. I made no doubt that this was one of the Cyclops, and am since assured of it; because frequently the countrymen find bodies of the same size in caves, and dig up such bones out of the ground. Neither did these men;

as you may suppose, bring these you now see, as any thing extraordinary, for they know we have often met with larger; but because the soothsayers accounted it a happy omen, that they were found in the ground marked out for my tent."

Thus discoursing they came to the place where those gigantic bones were found. Radirobanes supped that night with Meleander, and their principal friends and favourites were admitted to the table: and while they were rejoicing at the recovery of so many men, as that day's event had brought back to their duty, a soldier arrived with letters to Meleander, from the governor of Catana, containing most happy news, of unexpected good fortune.

For Catana, a town always faithful to the king, being besieged by Anaximander the nephew of Lycogenes; when it was reduced to the last extremity, mount *Ætna* boiling out with sudden fury, discharged, besides an incredible number of stones, and a shower of ashes, three streams of liquid burning matter; which, as if sent on purpose, poured themselves into Anax-

imander's camp. This mischief happening in the night, the soldiers, cattle, engines, arms, and whatever was in the way, were overwhelmed in that fiery torrent; three hundred men were destroyed, and Anaximander having lost all his preparations, the next day raised the siege. But when he was going back to Lycogenes, the Cataneans made a sally from the town, and killing as many as resisted them, took him prisoner. And now they sent to the king, to desire his directions, what he would be pleased to have done with him.

This relation being repeated more than once, or twice, both those at the table and those who attended were so overjoyed, that they could not forbear breaking forth into loud acclamations, and those who were set as a guard without followed their example; by which means the rejoicings were spread all over the camp. They exclaimed that there was no longer need of swords, or forces, since the gods declared for them, and even the elements fought in defence of the king. Then garlands were placed

placed upon the images of the gods, and many of the soldiers pressed, to come not only into the royal tents, but even into the room where the kings supped, to congratulate them.

Their exultations being somewhat allayed, Radirobanes with eager curiosity began to enquire of Meleander, how Ætna could assist him against Anaximander? Was it credible that such a consuming fire should rush forth from the bowels of the mountain? What were the qualities, and what the nature of the soil? Meleander briefly informed him, that it was the highest mountain in Sicily, impregnated with sulphur, and enflamed by the pent up winds, labouring in its bowels, which boiling up, throws out flames (that could not be restrained by any inclosure) through holes made by its violence in the top. “Neither is the top (said he) always burning and flaming; but is for the most part covered with a dusky smoke, making the air look black; and sometimes you may perceive sparks of fire in the darkness. Sometimes, though not very often, a violent eruption

happens, then it throws out flames and ashes, and destroys the country round it; for from the top of the hill, a liquid torrent pours itself along, and ruins every thing that opposes its passage. Then are heard bursts of subterraneous thunder, louder than that from heaven, and the people fear that Ætna will burst in pieces, and overwhelm all Sicily. And in a manner, suitable to that dreadful noise, great stones are thrown with violence out of the mountain into the fields. Besides, from the flames, vast quantities of the ashes are blown about, and carried partly by their own force, and partly by that of the winds, all over the fields, which are covered with them; so that they spoil the corn that is growing, and make the land unfit for cultivation a long time after. And thus, with the stones, and ashes, but chiefly with the burning matter, flocks, herds, and cottages are all destroyed. Sometimes whole towns have been consumed and lost: Catana with difficulty defends itself, by the help of banks raised at great labour and expence; a city between the mountain and the

the sea, excellently situated, but for these dangers. It was besieged by Lycogenes's friends; but, as you have heard, the gods have converted this eruption of *Ætna*, which was formerly our punishment, into a benefit to us."

When Meleander had ended his speech, the subject itself and the mirth of the feast, drew them into many other discourses: whatsoever in Sicily, was worth a stranger's knowledge or observation, being recollected and mentioned by one or other of the company. From historical narrations they came to the delightful stories of fabulous history, of the dogs barking about Scylla, and of the insatiable gulph of Charybdis. They told of the unfortunate Acis, who from his warm wound, poured forth a stream of coldest water; how Galatea fled from the rocks, for fear of the Cyclops. And how at Elis, Alpheus came with unmixed waters from the sea, and under ground pursued his *Arctusa*, who fled as swiftly from him. They related how Eryx fell dead at the feet of Hercules, while Venus cursed the victor.

From these they fell into discourses on religious traditions, what part of the island Pluto broke out of, to seize upon his lovely bride; where Proserpine was ravished, where her garland fell off, and where her girdle. Which was that verdant spot where Cyane first stood amazed, to see herself changed into a fountain. They also said, that the Eleusinians unjustly challenged those monuments that belonged to others. That Pluto made his way to seize his wife, not near Cephissus but in Sicily. Then they spoke of the wandering of Ceres; the secret mysteries—the nightly ceremonies, and the torches with which they entrust only the initiated.

The first watch being spent in these discourses, the trumpets sounded the second; when Meleander commanded the tables to be taken away. But as they were preparing to rise, and had now offered the last cup to Mercury, on the sudden a loud cry, and terrible alarm, called them away to business of a far different nature.



THE
P H O E N I X;

OR, THE
H I S T O R Y

OF
POLYARCHUS AND ARGENIS.

BOOK III. CHAP. I.

*The enterprize of Lycogenes. His defeat,
and death. Archombrotus brings away
his head. The rebels' overthrow.*

W H E N Lycogenes had re-
turned to his weakened camp;
much embarrassed and beyond measure
vexed, at the frowardness of fortune, with
a spirit driven by necessity, he roused
his

his thoughts to consider of the last remedies. He perceived that his state, which lately seemed secure, now stood tottering on the brink of ruin; and unless it were skilfully propped up, would soon be overthrown. If he should allow that night's consideration to his men, he reflected that they would perhaps take the course that seemed to them the safest; "And what (said he) if not contented with revolting, they should even seek a reward from the king, by delivering up their general into his hands?" He considered, there were no fresh supplies to be hoped for; and that his present forces were not sufficient to meet the two kings in the open field; therefore he resolved on a stratagem of war, while they are yet subject to his command: thinking that while Meleander's camp are sunk in festivity and carelessness, perhaps he might be too hard for them, and the night being his friend would double the noise and terror of an attack; at the least, even a sudden destruction would be esteemed a happiness to him, who now feared something worse.

Having

Having considered all these things, he called together his principal officers, and shewed them the enemies camp: "What think you, said he, are they doing who have so undeservedly gotten a victory? they are enfeebled by joy, and being crowned with garlands, are fit to be offered up for sacrifice. Let us fall to work directly, and make use of the benefit our fugitives afford us, who by their flight have enervated the strength and resolution our enemies had before; so that now they are wrapt in security, as if the war was ended. Let us therefore take them unawares, and the more they are in number, the greater will be their disorder and confusion." There was none of the company, but highly approved of this enterprize: departing therefore each to his charge, they exhorted their men to follow where the gods called them; saying, that a victory was offered them against men, who unable to bear felicity, were drowned in wine and security. Then they raised the anger of the soldiers, by reminding them that they must undergo whatever miseries they did

not first inflict. The darkness of the night and the hopes of surprising the enemies, added much to their courage and resolution; and many of them despairing of pardon from the greatness of their offences, were pleased with an enterprize, in which they might either conquer or die nobly.

When therefore the night was far spent, Lycogenes dividing his forces into two bodies, to confound the enemy by a double attack, made haste to set forward. There was an easy way by the open fields to the camp of the kings, that way Lycogenes led his men; but by another shorter, but more difficult path, overgrown with bushes, he sent Menocritus with the other part of the army; being ordered to march slowly, and not to attempt any thing till he should perceive that Lycogenes had attacked the guard; but that then his division likewise should charge with as much noise and fury as possible, in order to confound and divide the enemy, and turn the course of the conflict from Lycogenes.

Above twelve thousand men marched against Meleander by these two different ways;

ways; a sufficient army to hope for victory, and especially being rendered valiant by necessity. They went on in silence till they fell upon the watch, but then they made use of all the mingled noises that could breed horror and confusion, alarming their enemies with the sound of drums and trumpets, and with a confused cry terrifying them, and animating each other to the victory.

And now the guards began to give way, when those in the nearest tents, amazed with sudden fear, arose and began to arm themselves; the alarm spreading through the camp, all rose in a disorderly manner, being confused between wine and sleep; some partly armed, but all without order or government, enquired from whence this sudden mischief could proceed—Was it from enemies without, or from treason within the trenches? Many prepared for fighting, but more for flight; for they could not form themselves into regular order under their ensigns, being all in confusion together, and the darkness adding strength to their fears. But the report at length

length reached the two kings, whom we left just rising from table: they heard the alarm, which was soon after confirmed by messengers, who could give no other account, than that there was a fight at the gates of the camp. Radirobanes with all speed, attended by his servants, withdrew to his tent, and there armed himself, while those about Meleander took the same care for him. But Archombrotus taking him aside, with a steady countenance, thus addressed him: "Oh king, if you will allow me the honour, I will take upon myself your danger this night! For to what end should you expose your life in the dark? and against whom we are yet ignorant. Reserve your old age, upon which the welfare of so many depend, and permit me to take your lot and to represent your person; let me have your arms and habit, and lead your people. In the mean time, yourself with a body of the most faithful men, may retire to that part of the camp which is farthest from the enemy, and there reserve yourself for dangers inevitable and worthy of you."

The

The king approving his advice, and admiring the fidelity of the young man, resigned his arms to him, and in an unknown habit, with a few of his most faithful servants, retired to the most distant gate.

Archombrotus in the royal habit, attended by those who were privy to the deception, hastened to the place of most noise and tumult. His speed and his voice inclosed in his helmet, prevented them from finding the difference; and when he rushed into the fight, the rest, enflamed with desire to defend their king, more than to annoy the enemy, bravely seconded him.

Lycogenes having broken through the rampart, drew a number of his men together, and was advancing to the king's quarter; so that now they were engaged within the trenches. Archombrotus at first slew three men with as many blows, while those who were near him, believing their old king thus strong and valiant, with joy emulated his actions: and the enemy terrified with the violence of their attack, began to retire towards the trenches. When
(from

(from the other side of the camp) Menocritus was heard, who with his followers advanced with noise and shoutings, redoubling the terrors of the darkness and the fight; the soldiers amazed and dismayed at this double and uncertain danger, could hardly be kept to their duty, when Radirobanes bravely opposed himself to this new attack. He therefore encountered Menocritus, and stopped those who were forcing his quarters, but they were not hindered by wounds or danger, and only to be repulsed by death. A most terrible encounter ensued: on this side, Archombrotus engaged with Lycogenes within the trenches; on that, Radirobanes was striving to keep out Menocritus. The night was unfavourable to both, the darkness rendering it uncertain where to attack or defend; until Lycogenes threw a firebrand into the tent next him, directing his men to do the same on all sides, that burning the enemies and their baggage, they might give light to their own victory. On the other side, the king's soldiers began to pull down all the tents near at hand, to prevent

prevent the fire from spreading any further, and happily a shower of rain came to their assistance, which falling with some violence, prevented the threatened mischief; but the ground being slippery, made their footing unsafe, and their blows uncertain. The night being spent in slaughter, so many dead bodies lying in their way, so much blood and carnage before them, all together drove them to such an excess of rage and fury, that, as if the combat were then but just begun, they exerted all their force on both sides, insomuch that it seemed rather a fight undertaken from private spleen and inveterate hatred of individuals, than the decision of a public cause.

And now Meleander became impatient to participate in the danger of his people: resolving therefore to run the last hazard with them, he sent word to Archombrotus, that he was coming to put himself at the head of his men; but Archombrotus said to Eurimides, "If the king should come hither with the rest of his troops, oh Eurimides, we shall only be encumbered by

by the multitude; the straitness of this place will not admit so many fighting men. It were better to draw off some of these we have with us, and lead them about to charge the enemy in the rear: for why are our cavalry of no use? Why our archers, but that among these tents they cannot use their bows?"

Eurimides approved of the advice of Archombrotus, and returning back to the king, he acquainted him with their intentions; and then, drawing off some part of the army, they went round another way, in order to charge on the backs of the enemy. Lycogenes understanding the danger, and hearing that his rear was attacked, would not yet retire from the front, but sent orders to Menocritus, to draw his men to the rearward with all speed. When he obeyed; which Radirobanes perceiving, and following as he retired, drew out great part of his army into a plain, fit for ranging his men in order of battle. Menocritus was thus encompassed between Meleander and Radirobanes, and confined within a narrow compass:

pass: and the Balearian archers and Sicilian horsemen being now become of great service, the former at distance, the latter near at hand, gave them no respite. But then Lycogenes knowing, if Menocritus with that part of his army were cut off, the whole cause was lost, foaming and almost frantic with rage, turned all his ensigns, and hasted to his relief; but by a winding circuit, that he might at the same time attack Meleander on one side, and prevent Archombrotus from falling upon his rear. But at that instant Archombrotus, pulling up his helmet, and shewing his face, said, "Fellow soldiers, I am Archombrotus! I have, with better fortune than Patroclus, under the arms of my superior deceived mine enemies: by the king's permission, I have worn his arms and habit, to secure him from the dangers of the night. If you still desire to preserve him, you must the second time defeat Lycogenes, who now marches indeed against the king, not that he hopes for victory, but because that he is already beaten by you. It is now your duty to defend

defend your king from the violence of an enraged, a desperate, and dying man."

Having thus said, he leaped through the breach that Lycogenes had made in the rampart, the soldiers with a joyful shout following him as their leader. Never was there seen a more cruel engagement: the troops by turns advanced and retired, the colours of both sides were mixed together, till there was neither van nor rear, neither wings nor main body of an army to be discerned; great heaps of bodies piled up, and the living stood fighting upon the dead. Meleander, brave and active beyond his age, in the daring of a soldier seemed to forget the general. Eurimides and Arsidas fought with undaunted courage, at the same time looking carefully upon the king, and turning the danger from him. Radirobanes, inflamed with his own courage, and the hope of his reward, despised all danger, and threw himself wherever the strongest resistance was made; while the rebels, knowing what they had deserved at the king's hands, chose an honourable death in the field.

Lycogenes, conspicuous in his armour, shewed himself in the midst of his troops, commanding, reproving, and encouraging his men, as their actions deserved, and if in any part they gave way, desperately reassuring them by the death of their enemies. At length, Archombrotus, in the very heat of the battle, took courage to aspire to the greatest and highest exploit of the field. His young heart was on fire with the thought of having Radirobanes for a rival, and Lycogenes for an enemy: he therefore gave the charge of those whom he led to Timonides, who was near him, and eagerly rushed to the place where Lycogenes was fighting.

Lycogenes, scorning to be challenged, broke out of his place to encounter him. Archombrotus first threw his javelin, which struck, but did not pierce his shield, and in return received a blow from his antagonist's heavy battle-axe. Both of them, offended with their hands and weapons for failing them, raged with deadly fury: they redoubled their blows, and each tried every joint of the other's

armour. Archombrotus, impatient of delay, pressed his horse as near as possible to his enemy, whom he suddenly caught in a forcible grasp, being himself held fast in the same pressure, and thus grappling they fell to the ground together; but in the fall the strength and agility of Archombrotus prevailed, so that he got Lycogenes under him. Many of the soldiers ran upon them, some to help one, some to raise the other. Lycogenes struggled upon the ground, being entangled by the arms and legs of his enemy; but Archombrotus suffered him not to rise, though almost breathless with many blows, and the men pressing upon him; yet with a short dagger he gave him many wounds under his breast-plate, till he perceived him expire.

When the soldiers on both sides saw that Lycogenes was dead, they set up a loud and dissonant cry, and one party was exulting for the victory, the other shrieking with apprehension for their own inevitable approaching ruin. Archombrotus with his men the more eagerly

pressed upon their opposers thus dismayed ; then cutting off the head of Lycogenes, and holding it aloft by the hair, he put them out of all doubt concerning his death, and at length threw it at Meleander's feet. " Behold, (said he) O king! Lycogenes now quiet, and whom henceforward you may safely trust. May all those, who refuse your mercy, and despise your clemency, in the like manner feel the justice of the avenging gods !"

Meleander commanded the head of Lycogenes to be safely kept, and then charged afresh upon his enemies, already faint and fearful. And now it was no longer a fight, but an execution ; no man dared to face the conquerors, none listened to Menocritus, who endeavoured to make a stand ; but, breaking their ranks, some ran up the hills, some hid themselves in caves, others straggled through the fields as fear and chance led them. Many fell down breathless with running, and were trampled under foot by the pursuers : in short, nothing was wanting to compleat the miseries of the vanquished. Radiro-

banes pursued Menocritus, and when he was known by his arms and crest, commanded him to be taken prisoner. He, however, though he had no means left to escape, fought with courage, strengthened by despair, till being taken and bound, he was no longer able to hurt his enemy nor himself.

It was evening again before they were all returned from the pursuit of the enemy. The king, though the war was now ended, spent that night in his camp, which was greatly damaged by the last night's invasion; but the distractions of the night kept his joys in suspense, and made him keep strict watch and guard, lest by some unforeseen accidents, the attack should be renewed. But the over-wearied soldiers gladly took their needful repose.

In the morning, Meleander sent to Raddirobanes, to know if he might visit him, and soon after, attended by a train of nobility, he went to his tent. He, though proudly sensible of the important services he had rendered Sicily, was inwardly torn with spleen and rage against Archombrotus

ombrotus for his victory over Lycogenes. While he was brooding over this seed of envy and jealousy, Meleander came to him, with all courtesy extolling his good offices, and ascribing the victory chiefly to the Sardinians. "Our triumph (said he) is thy work, Oh my royal guest! When I shall make use of my dignity, I shall oftener remember, that I received it anew from thy hand, than thou wilt the benefit. In the mean time, enjoy the victory thou hast gained, and in the peoples joy read their obligations to thee." Radirobanes, though he more than sufficiently believed what the king said, yet openly he declined this panegyric, desiring the king not to make him blush at such undeserved praises: that all the success was due to the justice of the cause, and Meleander's good fortune; for that it was himself who had received a benefit, in being allowed to defend his rightful cause, and to partake of his glory.

C H A P. II.

Argenis comes to the camp. Her various troubles of mind. The kings celebrate the funerals of those slain in battle.

WHILE they were thus discoursing together, word was brought, that Argenis was arrived in the camp. The day before, from the walls of Eipercté, she had as little spared her tears as the soldiers did their blood: her colour faded, and she never was happier, than when fear had bereft her of her senses. Sometimes she wholly gave herself up to grief, sometimes she recovered strength, and encouraged hope, sending frequent messengers to inform herself of the state of the battle. Yet was not Poliarchus ever out of her mind, speaking often to him, though absent, sometimes sad and pensive, sometimes angry. “Were it better for me, my dearest! (exclaimed she) that thou shouldst know the perplexities of my mind, than that thou shouldst remain
remain

remain ignorant of them as thou art ?
 Perhaps the relation of my sorrows would
 be thy destruction ! But what if thou
 shouldst hear, that thy Argenis is a
 captive ? Or freed from the scorn of her
 enemies by a wound from her own hand ?
 Oh deadly misfortune ! Oh unhappy love !
 Not one death only must I endure, but when
 thou diest, a second time I lose my life !
 Why art thou, Poliarchus, now absent !
 Must I accuse thee or the gods for thy tar-
 diness ? What fruit of oblivion hast thou
 tasted in Africa, which so long detains
 thee ? Hath not thy genius warned thee
 of what is passing here ? Or doth thy
 hatred of my father prevail above thy
 vows of love to me ? Or hast thou (oh
 worst of evils) found out other dangers
 to encounter ? Thou oughtest to be here,
 Poliarchus : Thou shouldst fight against
 mine enemy, then I should be assured of
 the victory ; my father would then be
 indebted to thee for his Sicily, and for
 his daughter, whom now thou sufferest
 to be lost, or to be preserved perhaps for
 another's glory : Surely if thou hast resolved

to come, neither the elements, nor fortune, nor nature, had prevented thy return!"

After thus blaming herself, as if she had been guilty of sacrilege in chiding Poliarchus, she suddenly turned her mind to considerations of a different kind: it was grief and care enough for her, that her father was in the midst of the battle; if Poliarchus had been in the same danger, her grief had been too heavy to bear. "The fates (said she) have favoured me, that in so great danger I have nothing to fear for Poliarchus. So long as he lives, so long as he is safe, I ought not to reckon myself entirely unhappy. Why then do I so greatly fear, as if he could be false to his word, or the gods could be unjust to his merit!"

While she was thus arguing with herself, concealing her agitations under her veil, word was brought of the enemies flight, which she could partly discern from the place where she was, and the sight raised her spirits, and gave her hope and comfort. She then admitted Selenissa to speak to her, and received the congratulations of all

all those about her; the people also followed her to the palace, with marks of excessive joy and triumph. The next morning, attended by most of the citizens, she went to the camp; but that her joy might not be without alloy, it was rumoured among the people, that her marriage with Radiobanes was agreed upon, and the people rejoicing as at a match that would be agreeable to Argenis. At her arrival, the king embraced her with tears of joy and affection. "Oh my child, (said he) I now embrace the undoubted heir of Sicily! They are gone for ever, who perverting the rights of nations, strove to wrest the kingdom from thee." Then turning to Radiobanes, "This is he, my Argenis, (continued the monarch) who ought to be reckoned among the tutelar deities of Sicily! It is by the power of the gods, and his virtue, that we this day hold our kingdom." Then he highly commended Archombrotus, and afterwards praised the other officers, and especially the strangers, in a manner greatly to their satisfaction. Argenis, with great

H 5 discretion,

discretion, thanked them all, and received their congratulations, retiring as much as she could with propriety from the compliments of Radirobanes, whose courtship she greatly feared.

Meleander, who now wished to return to Eipercté, was detained by respect to the funeral rites, to be performed for all those who were slain in battle: for the army, both of their own good will, and also admonished by the soothsayers, made due preparations for these last duties of piety to the dead. Some cut down trees, others brought them to the camp; the rest prepared beds of grass, till by the labour and diligence of so many hands, the funeral piles were quickly raised. Upon them were laid the dead bodies, but mostly of the private soldiers; for the bodies of superior rank and dignity were conveyed away by their relations to a more honorable interment. They adorned the piles according to the pomp of military men with the spoils of their enemies, and raised trophies of the arms scattered about the fields. Those that had friends
near

near at hand, had their wounds washed and their bodies anointed, and laid in a more orderly manner: each of them had a garland of parsley, which was proper to the conqueror and the dead, for they used to strew that herb upon graves, and also the Greeks, in many of their games, crowned the victor with a wreath of the same kind. A multitude of women and children came thither, wailing and tearing their hair, and began to celebrate their obsequies in a manner that shewed they were not hired to mourn for the dead: some lamented their kindred, and others, moved by theirs and the public loss, followed their example.

Every thing being ready for the funerals, Meleander, in deep mourning, came out of his tent; the whole army followed him trailing their pikes upon the ground. Sometimes they sent forth loud cries, and then marched in deep and fearful silence: in this manner they marched several times round the field. At length the king came to the largest pile, holding a lighted torch in his hand, until the whole company

H. 6 had.

had called upon the names of their dead companions. This being done, three times he covered his face, and turning his back, set fire to the pile. Radirobanes did the same at the second, Archombrotus at a third, and the rest in like manner were set on fire by the last good offices of their friends. But the soldiers most severely punished their captives: they spared the natives, but the foreigners, who served under Lycogenes, were brought bound, and their blood sprinkled upon the fire, and the conquering soldiers invoked the ghosts of their comrades to this cruel solemnity. But the king, detesting such horrid rites, put a stop to them, and commanded those prisoners who survived to be preserved, as if he designed them for other punishments; and the bodies of the enemies he commanded to be thrown into pits and caves, lest the air should be infected by them. After a while, the funeral fires being almost burned out, and the company remaining silent, Meleander ascended a place built on purpose, and from thence made a funeral oration.

oration. He first briefly, as became a king, praised those men whose funerals they then solemnized. Then he called them conquerors, and happy in death, who ended their lives in the most honourable manner, and were freed from the danger of staining their glory by future actions or misfortunes, since suffering short and transient pains, they received great and lasting rewards; adding, that they were dear to the infernal gods, and their names should remain upon earth as long as the praises of the dead should be sung at their funerals. After this, he adverted from the praise of the dead to commendations of the living; thanking the soldiers for their brave and faithful services, observing that the gods and virtue, and the consciousness of having acted worthily, and the memory of grateful posterity, were to valiant men the best and most satisfactory rewards. Yet promising moreover, that it should be his constant care to act so, as they should think their labours well bestowed upon a king, who would be ever mindful and grateful for them. He then bade them lay aside their mourning,

mourning, and follow him to the city, there to assist at more joyful solemnities. Upon this, the priest sprinkled the purifying water, and his servants took off his mourning garment, and put on a triumphal one. And now the multitude began to sing the Pæan ; gathering boughs and flowers of every sort that were esteemed fortunate, carrying some in their hands, and weaving others into garlands for their heads as they went along.

C H A P. III.

The procession for the victory ; the kings entry into Eipercté. The grief of Argenis for the absence of Poliarchus. She resolves to send Archombrotus in search of him.

ALL things being in readiness, the king with his people set out to return to Eipercté. He did not think fit to make a triumph, because the victory was over his own subjects, yet the procession

sion had very much the resemblance of one. The army moved on under their ensigns, their heads being crowned with laurel, and the sacrifices adorned with wreaths of olive: they marched to the sound of warlike musick, and invoked the gods to witness their joy. A chariot was brought to Meleander, adorned with ensigns of majesty and victory, who invited Radirobanes to partake of it; but he declined it, and there ensued a long and complimentary dispute. Radirobanes affirming, that place to be only due to Argenis, that the royal virgin ought to sit beside her father, that both together might receive the wishes and acclamations of their joyful people; since for them the gods, for them fortune herself had fought. As for himself, he said, he would mount his horse and ride beside them, or else follow the chariot. But all this while, it was apparent that this proud and ambitious man, paid this respect to love, and hope of the marriage he aspired to. When Meleander could not persuade him to sit in the chariot, he refused it himself; and at length, by the desire of the kings,

kings, the consent of the nobility, and with the applause of the soldiers, Argenis alone was placed in it. The two kings on horseback immediately preceded it, their horses adorned with laurel wreaths: Archombrotus rode before them upon a white horse, which he managed with his left hand, in his right bearing the most glorious spoil of the field, the head of Lycogenes (which the people gladly beheld, knowing in that alone the victory was conclusive) and his servant carried before him a young tree, dressed as a trophy with the arms of Lycogenes; and not far off was seen Menocritus loaden with chains. The principal officers and soldiers marched near the chariot, and though in respect to the lady, they forbore to use the common liberty of a triumph, in uttering rude jests and freedoms; yet they frequently called upon the gods that presided over marriage, Juno, Hymen, and Venus Erycina, looking now upon Argenis and then upon Radirobanes. It was generally believed that these hints came first from the Sardinians, and the Sicilians sup-
posing

posing the marriage to be concluded between the two kings, by these allusions intended a compliment to their future prince. But Argenis could hardly hear them with patience, scorning the victory if it must be bought at such a price, and almost hating Radirobanes. In the mean time, the people had adorned their doors with lights and laurel boughs; as many as had statues of their ancestors brought them forth; thus at the same time boasting of their descent, and inviting the images of their fathers to partake of their joy. The citizens, distinguished by their companies, went forth to meet the king; they were preceded by a company of boys, dressed in white garments, who chaunted out their pæan in a loud and untaught manner: these were followed by all the most skilful musicians, some playing on their instruments, others singing songs of triumph to the gods and to the king; next came the company of the artificers, and after them the magistrates, with the marks and ensigns of their offices. These having stopped the king by a long and tedious congratulation,

congratulation, gave place to the priests, who came last as most honourable of all. Some carried images of the gods, others antique vases and instruments, used in the sacrifices ; all of them fire, at that time safely, and not without the jests of some of the wiser sort. They often recounted the presages of the gods, averring that the destruction of Lycogenes had been often foretold by the flight of birds, entrails of beasts, and by lightening. With these solemnities Meleander was brought to the gate of the city ; upon the frontispiece of which, they had placed an image of Peace, into whose right hand Mars delivered a branch of olive : there was also an unreasonable piece of flattery, intimating as if all Sicily was now in a state of peace and tranquillity, presented to the king in the following verses, on a tablet inscribed to king Meleander :

Sicilia's king and father, welcome home !
With thee peace festively clad is come ;
See white-rob'd piety from heaven descends,
And all the gods appeas'd return thy friends !
Concord renews the country's smiling face,
Labour and peace unite their work to grace.

They

They clothe the soil with grafs, with corn the field,
 Which to their cares doth tenfold plenty yield :
 Behold the barren elms returning woo,
 The fertile vines their former loves renew !
 Ascend, oh king, thy high paternal throne,
 And let the laws fit arm'd by thee alone.

From the gate the king went directly to the temple of Jupiter; from thence Menocritus was sent to prison, and with him Anaximander, whom not long before the Cataneans had brought in bonds: but he in four days time died of his wounds, and the other not long after with grief and anguish of mind. All the pictures and images of Lycogenes were defaced, and all men forbidden by proclamation, to shew or keep any resemblance of him. The public ceremonies being ended, Meleander went to the castle, fatigued both in body and mind, first with the battle and after with the care and business that succeeded it, and even his joy added to his weariness. He therefore withdrew to his chamber, and taking a light supper among his household servants, he disposed himself to rest. The like solitude, under pretence

preence of sleep, was sought by Radirobanes, Archombrotus, and Argenis; each of whom had a separate grief to disturb and torment their bosoms. Radirobanes, though full of presumption, and confidence in himself, was tortured with reflecting on the valour and fortune of Archombrotus, the applauses that the people bestowed on him, and the favour and affection that Meleander shewed him. Tho' the Sardinian prince despised him as too weak a rival, yet his violent passion made him dread every thing that stood in its way: but turning his mind upon himself, considering the services he had done to Sicily, and how much he had performed in person, he fell asleep, and dreamed of the late victory and of the expected reward. Archombrotus was far more deeply wounded, finding by many proofs that nothing is more cruel, than that passion which men call *sweet love*. Nor did he think fortune so much his enemy as his own silence, in suffering himself to pass for a private man, and his birth and fortunes to be concealed; and now thought
 it

it were better to reveal his situation and desires to Meleander. While he was thus resolving, he remembered his parent's commands, and the gods, whom he had called to witness, that he would not discover his birth and quality in Sicily. Should he then write to his mother, or go himself to be released from his vow? Either of these ways seemed too slow for his wishes, yet the design of writing displeased him the least; for how could the man who loved Argenis, endure to be so long absent from Sicily? In this perplexity of mind, he threw himself upon a restless bed, as being insensible that the maladies of the mind are often communicated to the body.

Argenis, confounded with so many griefs, sought for comfort in Seleniffa; both of them complained of Poliarchus and of Radirobanes, why the one was absent, why the other was in their sight! "Oh mother, said the princess, what a victory is this! What difference is there to me, whether Radirobanes or Lycogenes prevailed, except that my father is preserved from the sword

sword of Lycogenes, to fall by my parricide; for if he should give me to Radirobanes, I shall free myself by death, and by the grief of that action kill my aged father. Was I then only born to be the prey of a traitor, or the prize and reward of a victor? Have the fates bestowed their best gifts, my beauty and inheritance, only for my destruction? Did I only know Poliarchus, that I might know myself unworthy to be united to such excelling virtues? But tell me, Selenissa, why think you, that he stays away so long? Perhaps he remains in disguise somewhere in this island, in order to make trial of my constancy: or is he not fallen into the snares of those who envy his virtues, and know him above suspicion or mistrust? And whom can I now trust? whom can I send to enquire of his welfare, and to relate my miseries!"

Now melting into tears, she gave ear to Selenissa, who gave her more comfort than she herself felt or believed. Till having recovered her power of utterance, her mistress thus proceeded: "I am not (oh

Selenissa)

Seleniffa) the first that have loved unfortunately ! But, why do we thus yield to our misfortunes ? Death will be my last resource, from which nothing can debar us. Might not I, in disguise, go and seek out Poliarchus ? Oh ! that I had courage to such an undertaking ! but I am ignorant of all cunning devices, and have not boldness to frame or support a fictitious story. But besides, thou couldst neither follow me, nor escape the punishment due to an accomplice in my flight. Now hear me propose what I think the best course I can take : Archombrotus, you know, is a true friend to Poliarchus ; he vindicated him to the king in his absence, he was the chief persuader of his being recalled. I will persuade him to seek Poliarchus, and restore him to Sicily ; yet he shall not know the cause why I desire to see him. And as something must be contrived to colour this embassy, a fiction will not want the appearance of truth, when both of us shall oblige him to believe it."

Seleniffa commended her design, either because she indeed approved of it, or because

cause being fatigued, she desired that both Argenis and herself might have some rest for the remainder of the night. Which being spent without sleep by Argenis; she early called for her chamberlain, and mentioning the death of Lycogenes, commanded him to visit Archombrotus in her name, and to enquire if his wounds had allowed him to take any rest that night. By this compliment to the young man, she meant to render him devoted to her will, and to prepare him for more earnest employment. Archombrotus thought himself in heaven, and now believing that he was really beloved, he answered the chamberlain, "That, if Meleander and Argenis were in health, upon whose welfare and happiness his own depended, he was well enough." (Oh the minds of mortal men! fearing their own delights, and loving their own miseries!) Archombrotus overjoyed, and ignorant of the cunning of Argenis, wearied himself with fruitless imaginations, and waited at the door of the prince's apartment, that he might pay his respects when she came forth. She was not displeased

to find him there; and all the way as she went to the king, she talked with him without mentioning Poliarchus; for that business, which was not yet ripe, required privacy and caution.

But behold new errors arise! Radiobanes, distracted with love and distrust, had hired some dependant on the court, to bring him intelligence of all the motions of Meleander and Argenis; and before he came out of his apartment, word was brought him, that early in the morning Argenis had sent a message to Archombrotus, that he presently came to her, and had held a long and familiar conference with her. At this, his suspicions instantly took fire, and he became as furious in love as he had before been in war: thus enraged he went aside with Vertiganes, to contrive some means, by which Archombrotus might be dispatched out of the way; for what an indignity it was for so great a king, to stand in fear of a private and an unknown rival? Vertiganes endeavoured to assuage his anger, by speaking contemptuously of Archombro-

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tus, and persuaded him the same day to open his mind to Meleander, concerning the intended alliance; which, he said, would put an end to the business, while the despised Archombrotus would be punished for his madness and presumption, even to his own satisfaction. But he observed, if Radiobanes should openly shew his resentment, it would be doing too much honour to Archombrotus, to look upon him as a rival; and thereby to let him know that he had power to raise the jealousy of so great a king.

C H A P. IV.

A conversation between the king and Cleobulus on the troubles of the state, and the best means to quiet them.

MELEANDER, being free from these cares of love, was intent upon business of greater importance. There still subsisted some relicks of the war, such as ought not to be despised or neglected;

neglected ; Syracuse, Lylibæum, Agrigentum, and other cities of less note, having sided with Lycogenes. The king therefore asked the advice of Cleobulus, whether it were better to divide his army, and besiege them all at once, or march against them with all his forces, and reduce them one after another ; for he doubted not of subduing them, because the faction had no proper head to have recourse to. “ It will be sufficient (said Cleobulus) if your majesty continue your army encamped for a while, and keep up a threatening appearance ; that fear may induce them the sooner to return to their obedience. For, in this case, I have no doubt, that in a few days you will have their deputies here to offer their submission ; for being by infatuation drawn aside from their duty, they will gladly return to their natural allegiance. Fear not, my lord, the war is finished ; the original cause of it was not in the cities ; but if you desire future security, there are far different sources of mischief that must be stoped up.”

Meleander being solicitous for the future, by recollection of the past evils, answered, " We must be careful, that the kingdom being recovered of this distemper may continue long in sound health ; neither can we more properly than now, while our scars are fresh, find out the cause of those wounds we have received, and that fortune may hereafter inflict upon us : if, Cleobulus, while the danger was at the height, you had laid all my faults before me, you would have reproached rather than admonished me ; but now, being in safety, if you speak freely, it shall be a warning to me, to avoid the same dangers in future."

But Cleobulus, fearing to displease his prince by reciting his errors, though seemingly desirous to hear them, excused him from blame, laying the fault on his enemies, the times, and the fates, till by his modesty he had prepared the king's mind to receive the counsels he intended for him.

" As long (said he) as gentleness is reckoned a virtue, you cannot be said to have

have brought Sicily into these misfortunes : yet the truth is, that your clemency hath been abused by the malevolence of the fates, to the almost ruin of yourself and country. That easiness and sufferance of the nobility, that rash and lavish bounty of yourself and your predecessors to particular men, hath betrayed the regal power, and laid open your dignity to injury and contempt. Now, indeed, they have received a check, now the factious are tired, and they desire repose ; but as soon as they have recovered breath, you must look for new storms and tempests, unless like Æolus, you can curb these ambitious winds, and bind them with the chain of authority. They will strive to break forth, and as long as they have too much power, the king will never have enough. I do not, Oh king ! advise you to be a tyrant ! You will indeed do the best for these men, if you put it out of their power to do mischief ; if you bring them to hate their faults, to fear the consequences, and by degrees forget their restless and unquiet humours, which no government can ever

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satisfy."

satisfy.” “ I know (said Meleander) that many storms break forth out of these clouds ; but when the leaders of a faction are grown powerful, by the patience and forbearance of kings, it is often dangerous to attempt crushing them suddenly ; then the king shall be accused of injustice, or else, by striving against them unadvisedly make a rash trial of the regal power, which at length is insulted, when the weakness of it ought rather to be concealed.”

“ You may (said Cleobulus) promise yourself better success, if you with order and by degrees reduce the power of these men, and take away the grain that feeds their ambition. Be assured, that your cause is just, and such as both gods and men will approve, while you defend the honour of kings, and hinder Sicily from being guilty of parricide, by which she daily sacrifices herself to the furies. Though it be fresh in your memory, Sire, what factions are able to do, permit me to shew you their nature and original ; for it is my desire to encourage you to suppress them, or to prepare you to suffer patiently inevitable

evitable evils. When therefore you love or favour any, above or against the nobility, or leading men, as if you were bountiful out of their fortunes, remember that they will presently think themselves injured. They leave the court, complaining that they are neglected, and unworthy people preferred to them. They will lament the unhappy condition of the people, who are oppressed, while a few, like horse-leeches, are filled with the blood of the kingdom, which is spiritless and exhausted; and that their pride is not to be endured, who abuse the bewitched prince, and trample upon the ancient and deserving nobility with the insolence of their new power. This is one of the common causes of discontent, which in the end frequently break out into civil war; but there are many other that embolden such kind of men to raise seditions: though you have been ever so bountiful, if once you hold your hand, if you refuse favour or offices to those who though full are not satisfied, if you do not impart to them your most secret counsels, if you esteem any above

I 4. themselves,

themselves, if you refuse to join with them in hating those whom they dislike or envy, in any of these cases, they presently think themselves used unworthily, and complain as if some great indignity and injury were offered them. Others, desirous to shew their consequence, and teach the king to know their power, without any offence given them, enter into practices against the government; but whatever be the cause of their disaffection, they presently find clients and followers, and so much the more easily, because these alarming crimes commonly go unpunished, and oftentimes rewarded. So being surrounded with partizans and dependents, they wrest from the king more advantages for the sake of peace, than they could have obtained for being dutiful and faithful. Being thus emboldened by your remissness, they will at length oblige you to give an account of your conduct to them, or they will prescribe a form of government to you. And what is the issue of this? Kings are obliged to buy peace at their hands, and they are rewarded for
their

their crimes. After this the state remains unsettled, you are full of doubts and fears from what quarter the flame shall next break out. Who shall have the glory of the next revolt, what new articles of agreement must be added to the records already too full of such things? I reckon it as the least of these evils, that these contentions and agreements make us the scoff of foreign states, who will say, that whether we have peace or dissention, our faith is more inconstant than the waves of the sea. But the consequences at home are of a more grievous nature: your farmers and your citizens are more impoverished by these civil broils than by a foreign war; the youth are brought up to think and speak freely and boldly of kings, and to wish for civil wars and changes of government. Instead of desiring to signalize themselves abroad, they contract an avaritious desire of enriching themselves by the spoils of their native country. I could enlarge still further upon these unhappy effects of a factious spirit,

but lest I be tedious I will hasten to a conclusion.

“Do you, O my king, desire to know what your subjects can complain of? These then are grounds sufficient for complaints; and it was for the appeasing of these troubles; that ambition might not excite the nobles to fall upon and break each other in pieces; that factions should not divide the people that ought to be united; that they might not stand in fear of those evils from their fellow subjects, that their enemies use to threaten. For these causes, in old times, the people had recourse to the regal power; for these they bestowed upon a king his crown, his throne, and his sword; but if under a monarchy they be tormented with all the plagues of a republic, what will it avail them to have given up their liberties, and submitted to the command of one man? Either then restore them their liberty, or secure them that peace and quietness at home, for which they surrendered it into your hands.”

Meleander

Meleander at these words fetched a deep sigh, and striking his breast said, "It is easier to describe a distemper, than to cure it by medicine. Oloödemus and Eristhenes have paid their debt to justice, Lycogenes is slain in battle. If, according to these precedents, I must continually make use of such rigorous means to establish my authority, it would grow odious to my people and to myself. I should detest that power, that must be maintained with the blood of my subjects. What then must I do? Must I put out these lights, or must I only darken them? Shall I suppress all, or only those who are suspected? It were unjust and cruel to punish only for suspicion; and beside, rebellion often shews no track for suspicion till it breaks out. What, shall I then drive away my subjects, and make them my enemies? Shall I live like a wild beast in a desert, or fill my court with obscure and worthless men? Truly, the remedy is worse than the disease. I will trust in the gods and fate: that since I have weathered this last storm, the respect of my authority will

restrain those who have experienced the effects of my power. But at least, Cleobulus, give me the mildest counsels you are able."

"Sire, (said Cleobulus) I am thus far of your opinion: I will allow all that can be said in favour of the nobility: there are among them many great and generous spirits, and even these things we complain of are signs of a disposition, that might be useful to the commonwealth under proper restraints; but because kings are apt to suffer them in wantonness untrouled, I impute their faults in a great degree to them. But still it is hard to dim the light of these stars; for you may neither extinguish them, nor rule them with an ungentle hand: let them shine so long as they remember from what sun they receive their light, and do not strive to eclipse your orb. It was become necessary, that some examples should be made, that some blood should atone for these crimes. Eristhenes and Oloödemus obliged you to make use of this remedy, and their unhappy revenger, Lycogenes, will, like them,

them, be remembered a long time, and keep the rest in order. But whoever, forgetful of these times, first begins to play this game again, crush him directly, not by slow and doubtful methods, but by immediate punishment. If you do this, men will respect your dignity, and obey your commands, who otherwise will be in doubt if you seem unresolved, whether or no they may offend you with impunity. You must therefore act resolutely, lest you seem to have forgotten what is past, or to ask pardon for the death of Oloödemus and Eristhenes.

“ Let your will and your power go together, that yourself and not Fortune may have the credit of your actions. Listen to no terms, conditions or covenants, with a rebel in arms: let there be only one remedy, and that in repentance: let him submit, let him abase his pride, condemn himself and his cause. To him thus penitent you may shew your clemency, except his offences be too great and dangerous to be forgiven, or his repentance be compelled by necessity; but take heed
that

that you pardon not such upon the importunity of their friends or kindred, who have taken up arms on your side ; for it is a common policy among the nobility to divide themselves between two parties, that they may be secure on both sides. You ought most to suspect such deceit, and if they are too importunate for their friends, hold them for little better than enemies.

“ Such, my lord, is my opinion of the ringleaders of factions. I could add much more on the subject of forfeitures and punishments, and also of the means of winning men over to your side, or of holding them more strictly to their duty ; but I shall say no more at this time, for I see the king of Sardinia coming towards you.”

CHAP. V.

Radiobanes demands Argenis in marriage.

Meleander's answer. The king of Sardinia's contrivances to corrupt Selenissa.

His success with her.

MELEANDER looked back, and saw that Radiobanes had already entered the court. He therefore, though reluctantly, put off their private conversation to another time, and went forward to meet his guest; and giving him a cheerful welcome, conducted him into the banquetting room, which was the largest apartment in the palace. The king commanded the doors to be thrown open, and the people were admitted to see them.

The chief of the nobility were invited to the feast; Argenis was also present with some select ladies: a powerful incitement to jealousy, rage and hatred, between the two rival lovers. Archombrotus was enraged against Radiobanes, and scarcely able to command his resentment.

ment. Radirobanes, no less warm than he, watched every time that he cast a look towards Argenis, or if he received a smile or a glance from her in return; both of them, in the frenzy of their passion, drawing vain conclusions, and misconstruing every look and gesture as an injury to them.

The banquet ended, Radirobanes, impatient with love and hatred, told Meleander, that, if he were at leisure, he desired a private conference with him; on which the king presently withdrew into a gallery, where Radirobanes thus began: "If I were to speak to another than yourself, my noble host, I would, to prepare his mind to meet my wishes, remind him that I am king of Sardinia and Corsica, that the isles of the Baleares are mine, that I have many ports in Africa and some in Liguria, that my countries are both wealthy and populous, and that my navy is mistress of all the seas that come to us from the great ocean. I would add my extraction from kings, the first of whom derived their descent from the gods. But

to you I will use another language: I earnestly desire, besides our league of hospitality, to unite myself to you by a nearer tie of friendship. I would unite my fortune with your's, or to speak more plainly, I would have you take upon you the name and prerogatives of a father over me; whatever I have is yours: in a word, give me your daughter in marriage. I know not whether I desire this marriage most, that the fair Argenis be my wife, or you my father." Here he stopt, making no mention of the assistance he had brought, though he firmly expected that circumstance would lose nothing of its weight with the king.

Meleander began to frame his answer, by declaring that he owed every thing he had to Radiobanes. "You make me an offer, my dearest guest, said he, not only worthy to be accepted, but earnestly to be sought and desired; for who would not wish to be allied to Radiobanes and Sardinia? Both yourself, noble youth, with a less patrimony, and your country not blessed with so great a king, might
either

either alone hope for a greater gift, than you desire at my hands. But you know, that marriages are made happy more by the conjunction of souls, than the union of bodies. Minds are free; no laws can compel them to what they are averse to; the royal inheritance my daughter is born to, would not deserve or endure such a state of slavery. I received my crown freely and without conditions from my ancestors, she expects it so from me. It ought then to be her free choice, upon whom she pleases to bestow herself and her Sicily. But do not, my dear guest, take what I say as a denial of your request; I would not have you think it strange, that I allow my daughter this just liberty. I promise to do for you all that lies in my power. Do you persuade her to entertain and be worthy of your love: since a forced or reluctant marriage would be unworthy of your honour. Finally, suppose yourself my own son, I would not wish her for my daughter-in-law, unless she also desired you for her husband."

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By these circumlocutions Meleander intended to satisfy Radiobanes, and gain time to reflect upon a business of so great consequence: he well knew his daughter's mind to be averse to this marriage, having founded her opinion before, when he first suspected that the Sardinian came to Sicily upon this expectation. But now Radiobanes urged him more strongly, intreating his favour, and said that his life depended upon being his son-in-law. In his warmth he neither remarked Meleander's words, nor perceived his meaning, who gave him hope in so cold and oblique a manner, that a wise man, or one whose mind was not disordered by love, might easily have found himself in effect refused.

And now Eurimedes brought them word, that it was time to go to the plays, that were to be presented in the court of the palace to entertain the people, and to rejoice for the king's victory. They therefore set forward to the theatre, and were placed by the master of the revels in a seat decorated with regal ornaments. After the kings were seated, Argenis entered
with

with Seleniffa and a train of ladies and attendants. Her presence increased the tortures both of Radirobanes and Archombrotus. They had no leisure to observe the actors, nor yet the ornaments of the Sicilian king, neither could they often view the princess, having their eyes continually fixed upon each other. Radirobanes thought that Argenis looked upon Archombrotus too frequently, and too graciously, which caused him thus to reason with himself: "What now avails the anger of a lover? I must make use of discretion and policy. If I destroy Archombrotus, his remembrance will make me hated by Argenis. Is not love a war? And are not stratagems in war allowable? And as fortresses which are thought impregnable, are betrayed to the enemy by politic devices; so those about Argenis may be assailable by gifts. Their commendations shall make my name acceptable to her. By their means I will know all that passes between her and Archombrotus, and nothing shall be concealed from me." Considering then, which of all the attendants

dants of Argenis, he should attempt to retain in his service, none seemed to him so useful, yet none so difficult to gain as Seleniffa. The gravity of her behaviour was such, as would discourage those who endeavoured to corrupt her fidelity; yet if she were once gained, the conquest of Argenis would be easy. He was witty and ingenious, and love had sharpened his natural abilities. "I must, said he, be bold; it will be easy for me to speak with that old woman: if she is not to be corrupted, she shall not understand the aim of my addresses; but if she will sell her fidelity, she shall find that I will be the purchaser."

While his mind was thus employed, neither the stage nor the actors had any share in his attention; nor yet the exercises of activity which were presented at intervals. There were some that used the combat of Eryx: on the other side the Cataneans came in dancing to a pipe, the invention of Andron their countryman. Yet one thing he observed, and interpreted for a good omen: that as he was forming a scheme to bribe Seleniffa, he saw an instance

stance of the same kind successful on the stage. For the poet brought in Argia and Eriphile, the one by a rich chain seduced to consent to a most bloody treason, the other for a bracelet betraying her husband.

After the shews were ended, and they returned to the palace, Radirobanes made the same proposal to Argenis, that he had done before to her father. He besought her to accept for a gift, the fortunes and the monarch of Sardinia, and added such other speeches as were befitting from such a lover to such a mistress. Argenis reddened, not so much out of modesty as hatred; yet she gave no other answer than what he expected at his first overture: "That the consideration of his proposals became not her, who was a virgin, neither had she that liberty while her father was living; at the same time she gave him thanks, that he so highly esteemed her father's friendship."

Radirobanes having entertained her some time, began to make trial of his intended practices. He saluted all the lords
and

and ladies in the presence, with a youthful vivacity, yet retaining the majesty of a king. At last he met with Seleniffa, and after some common compliments, he began to commend her son, who lived in the court; then he enquired if she had any more children, and how many were living: and used all such speeches as were likely to be pleasing to a woman. Then turning the discourse artfully to himself, "I have observed in you (said he) many things that remind me of my dear mother, whom you greatly resemble. Often this day, you have brought her fresh into my memory; and I will give you cause to remember, in how many respects the destinies have made you like to her." As they were thus discoursing, Meleander came to them and put an end to their conference; but in the evening Radirobanes took his leave of the king, and going to his apartment he sent for Seleniffa's son, whose name was Demades. After he had behaved to him with much familiarity; "Go, said he, and carry to Seleniffa this picture of my mother; if the crown and scepter

scepter were away it might pass for hers." It was a miniature picture of a woman, resembling Selenissa in years only, of curious workmanship and enriched with jewels, that had cost Radirobanes twenty talents.

When Selenissa saw Demades with the precious gift, she was dazzled with the lustre of it, and doubted within herself whether she should acquaint Argenis with her good fortune: but she doubted lest her fidelity should be suspected, and also feared, lest she should be commanded to return this pledge of uncommon generosity; weighing these things in her mind, and yet unresolved, she asked her son, whether any body were present when the king gave him this favour? "No," answered he; "he called me into a private room, that no one might know it." "Therefore, my son," said she, "keep it secret thyself, there is more in it than thou knowest; hereafter thou mayest know more, but for the present only remember to hold thy peace."

Having thus spoken she returned to Argenis, to whom she was not yet unfaithful; only her dislike of Radirobanes was ended,

ended, and she began to think favourably of him. She reflected with how much danger to herself and Argenis, Poliarchus was beloved; how often she had prevented Argenis from dying for his sake: how could she be assured that one time or other, she might not in some sudden fit of violent grief destroy herself. “And what, said she, hath Poliarchus deserved at my hands? I have received more benefit from a few days acquaintance with Radiobanes, than from more than a year’s familiarity between him and Argenis. Perhaps he, who is a stranger and unknown, may have given us a false account of himself; but all Sicily knows Radiobanes to be a king, and one who deserved her favour, before he made known his kingly desires, to obtain her in marriage. How great must my hopes be, if I can induce Argenis to favour him, when I already possess that reward, that were sufficient to requite me if it were done? To conclude, Poliarchus is absent, we know not whether he will return: and if he should, it is not likely that Argenis should gain

her father's consent to marry him publicly. And if they marry privately, and depart secretly, I shall be both scorned and detected, or at least not rewarded. As for Radirobanes, he cannot with safety be refused; nor, if we let slip this opportunity, may fortune again offer the like conditions, either for me or Argenis.

C H A P. VI.

The cities send deputies to the king. His clemency and care to gain the love of his people. He refuses to receive the Hyperphanii separately; and listens to the advice of Cleobulus.

WITHIN a few days, as Cleobulus had conjectured, there came deputies from all the cities to the king, and sat down in the porches of the temples, holding boughs in their hands wrapped about with wool, after the manner of suppliants. Many of the principal citizens made use of

of the intercession of Ibburanes and Dunalbius, whose favour with the king was so great, that he could scarcely refuse whatever they desired. Meleander, therefore, used a manly clemency to his dejected and penitent subjects, punishing them only by a serious and majestic demeanour. He gave them audience in the court; they were brought in through an armed guard, to the place where he sat in regal state, in order to strike awe and fear into the suppliants. When they complained of the disposition of the times, which had drawn aside the people against their inclinations into rebellion, he rebuked them in few words, but left them in hopes of pardon to his council, and ordered them to attend his farther pleasure. The judges, by the king's order, dismissed them with easy punishments; some of them were fined, and a few of the most notorious and obstinate were banished. Being treated more graciously than they expected, they filled their cities with the love and praises of their conqueror. The Hyperephanii designed to send their commissioners separately, to pre-

sent their congratulations, wishes, and assurances of allegiance to the king. But some of the council prevented them, who knew it would not be agreeable to the king, for when he heard their intention, “I would know (said he) whether the Hypererphanii think themselves more or less Sicilians, than the rest of my subjects? Why do they separate their duties from the rest of the people? Why do they send to me in the name of a party, and not in the name of the provinces and cities they belong to? Let them know, that these distinctions are always hateful to princes; especially when they shew themselves publicly, and make ostentation of their own strength and consequence.” When still more of the provinces returned to their allegiance, the deputies of Syracuse being admitted into the council chamber, stood with dejected looks, signifying that they durst not deliver their commission, till they were commanded to speak. Cleobulus enquiring what they would have, they delivered to him their petition, in which the desires of their city were contained.

tained. They added, " That it often happened that the people, oppressed with the injuries of wicked men, foolishly wreck their grief upon their king and country; as men in the delirium of a fever, vexed with their malady, vent their rage upon those that are nearest to them. Neither did they by this mean to excuse their former madness, but yet they well knew that oppressions were the first cause of it, which they now petitioned to be eased of; and that it would avail much towards the keeping them in their right minds for the future, if they were wholly delivered from them." Cleobulus undertook to present their petition to the king, and commanded them to attend for an answer within a day or two. The council then rising, he went directly to the king, who was then seriously thinking of Cleobulus's prudence and penetration, who had truly conjectured, that the cities would soon return to their obedience. And remembering the conversation that was interrupted by the coming of Radirobanes, he recalled him to the subject of that discourse (deferring the petition

tion of the Syracusans, which required consideration, to another time.) “As I remember (said he) Cleobulus, you told me there were two things that rendered the peace of Sicily uncertain, and put both war and peace into the power of the nobility. But the coming of the king of Sardinia broke off the discourse, which I now desire you to finish. What are these two ligatures, which bind Sicily to the nobility?” “The very same, most prudent Sire, said Cleobulus, which yourself have often complained of. First, the excessive number of forts, castles, and garrisons in Sicily. And secondly, the custom of appointing governors of provinces so absolute and for life.

“And first, for the number of castles and forts, if they were not hurtful, but only useless, I would advise you to demolish them. But why, having seen and experienced that they are expensive, hurtful, and dangerous, should we obstinately preserve them to our ruin? But you will say, the wisdom of our ancestors is not to be despised, who first built them and left

us their examples. Let not former ages glory in their wisdom, but at least, let them not be looked upon as infallible directors to us. Our ancestors provided for the affairs of their times, according to the genius and disposition of those ages; and we, observing the difference of times, may find our safety in contrary opinions and courses. And as I should think it an indecent pride, to neglect or despise the wisdom of our ancestors; so I should think it an absurd kind of respect, blindly to follow all their observances. These castles which are so troublesome to us, they for good reasons built, and we may with the same discretion destroy them. Let us not spare them out of respect to their names and founders, which have added a false kind of dignity to them; let ambition and her ramparts fall together to the ground.

“ The second thing, that I told you disturbed the quiet of our country, is the custom of settling the governors of provinces in a long and absolute command. As soon as the people have received a go-

vernor, they pay all their court to him, whom they look upon as their commander, as much as on you to be their king. Besides, as he rules them more immediately, and is a nearer object of their affections, they observe that he can more readily punish the wicked and reward the good. Above all, the nobility and gentry do so adhere to these governors, being endeared to them by hope, familiarity, and kind usage, that they hold to them, and will serve them though it be against the king himself. But, Sire, if you would grant these places but for a few years, their power would not be so formidable, nor would the citizens love or fear beyond due bounds, such as must shortly give up their commands."

"All this (said the king) I have long since considered and resolved on. But I cannot take away provinces, from those to whom I gave them freely; especially those who have served me faithfully in the late war, and to whom I am indebted for my victory. Shall I take away now, when
their

their faith is proved, what I gave them while it was doubtful?"

"No, Sir, answered Cleobulus, I do not advise you to any such innovation. Let them keep your gifts as freely as they were given; but as any one of them drops, appoint a successor upon new conditions: let their government be limited to three years; nor yet by renewing that term, suffer them to think that the *name*, and not the *nature* of their command is changed. Sicily will have no cause to fear those whose authority is of so short a duration, and ambition will always greedily desire honours, tho' of so short a continuance. Thus you may extend your favours to a greater number, and the provinces being more often vacant, you may prefer many, as their merits, or your affairs may require. If by these means you deprive the great, both of the will and power to rebel against you, they will be greatly obliged to you; and they likewise shall be freed from the dangers they incur under an unjust and jealous king.

"Cast but your eye, my lord, over the water, upon the land on the opposite side, which has often stood in opposition

to Sicily. It was once proud of a multitude of castles and forts; the nobility were so great in power and faction, that they were terrible to their kings: what tumults were in that kingdom? even those of Sicily were not greater. At one time the king was defeated, another time the barons, until at length all the castles except one were destroyed. The strength and power of the nobility were suppressed by the policy of succeeding kings: some died in war, others in prison, and some were offered up by the hand of the executioner, as sacrifices to the public peace. The gods grant that the blood of our nobility may never be held so cheap! This you must prevent by restraining them properly, and by being yourself a king. This propensity to revolt, will in time grow out of fashion; and duty shall not be thought burdensome, where all are under the same obedience. But so long as any rebel is suffered to go unpunished, the rest will despise your clemency; for all must be restrained by the same laws, or none will continue in their duty.

“ But if any should again revolt, you must now beforehand determine what to do with them. I say you must resolve; for expect not from us, your friends, the same advice that we now give, being out of danger. Perhaps, I myself might have delivered milder judgment; but that, ignorant of what shall happen hereafter, I know not against whom I have declared. And doubtless those wise men, whom you consult upon affairs of the last importance, take not so much care for the public, as entirely to neglect their own safety. When their counsel is required against factious noblemen in arms against you, they often, against their opinions, pronounce a favourable sentence, and advise you to a remissness, unworthy of your dignity; because they fear it may one day be in the power of these men, to revenge themselves upon them. This fear hinders many of your counsellors from speaking freely, except they may do it with safety: so they are true to themselves in the *first* place, and only in the *second* to your majesty. I would not say this before my brother

counsellors, nor even to yourself, if I did not know that among your other princely qualities, your rare and inviolable secrecy is even as safe as oblivion.

C H A P. VII.

Seleniffa betrays her lady's secrets to Radirobanes. She tells him of the practices of Lycogenes, and of the education of Argenis.

WHILE Meleander was thus giving ear to wholesome advice, Radirobanes was employed in laying snares for Argenis. Being encouraged by the bribe he had given, he earnestly desired to speak with Seleniffa; and that day fortune favored his wishes. He had sent one to acquaint the princess, that, if it were not inconvenient, he would visit her. Argenis was walking in the garden with some of her attendants; Seleniffa stayed in her apartment, being busy in writing letters; having gained this opportunity

tunity to speak with her benefactor, which she earnestly desired, she bade the messenger return to Radiobanes, and tell him that Argenis would soon be at leisure, when she returned from the garden. Then doubling her artifice, she sent one of her most trusty maidens to Argenis with this message ; that Radiobanes was coming to her apartment, whom if she rather desired to avoid, she should leave the garden, and go down into the grove, in order to stay there till the troublesome visitor were gone. In the mean time, when Radiobanes came, she met him, excusing her lady's absence, and telling him she would soon return. And when they were in private, the old woman thus began. " I am happy, Oh king ! that I have an opportunity to check your too great liberality and praises : you have resembled me to your dear and honoured mother, setting me at too high a rate." The king replied, " Count these things, Selenissa, but as trifles and pledges of a better fortune. You are not ignorant of both our situations. I may receive from
you

you a greater benefit than I can bestow on you : you are my light to guide me, and are in the place of my true mother : you may procure me a happiness greater than life itself. Neither do I desire any assistance from you, but what you shall think advantageous both to your foster-child and to yourself ; for why should she cast away her favours upon Archombrotus ? What a shame to the heiress of Sicily, that he, a private man, should dare to aspire so high ? If I were the lady's father or brother, I would find out the truth, and free her from these follies by his death or banishment. But give me leave to call you mother ! And do you, my mother, save your foster-child from this disgrace, and raise me to heaven ! That is, persuade her to listen to my love. What can she find to dislike in my descent, in my fortunes ? She has seen how much the powers of Sardinia and Corsica are able to do ; nor am I so little indebted to nature, as to be altogether unworthy of my station, or of her favour. Does she expect a god, that she thus despises kings ? Or does she
imagine

imagine she beholds a deity in Archombrotus? By your good offices you shall do us both service; yet it is not my meaning, that they shall go without a reward. If I am so happy as to marry Argenis, I promise freely that the Admiralty of the Sardinian and Sicilian seas (an honour next to that of kings) shall be thy son's: and if there be any thing else that you desire, know that you shall ever be to me in the place of a mother."

The weight of so great an expectation utterly overthrew the old woman's faith, which was already shaken by the present she had received: she now was blinded, and could see nothing. "But king Radi-robanes, would to heaven, (said she) you had not made me this promise! I shall now be more backward in your behalf than I intended to be; for in what I designed to serve you with Argenis, I fear I shall seem to undertake it with a mean and mercenary view. But, believe me, Argenis is more deeply wounded than you suspect. What do you tell me of Archombrotus? You are deceived, Oh king,

king, you are deceived !” Saying thus, she cast down her eyes and smiled. He was eager to enquire into particulars, having now secured her on his side. But she told him, the story could not be told in so short a time. “ Neither can I relate the first part of it (added she) without many changes of countenance: your attendants here at hand will have an eye upon our looks and gestures; the best way is to go down into the garden under pretence of meeting Argenis, and I will lead you into a walk where she is not likely to be.”

Radirobanes, confounded with expectation of so great a secret as the old woman seemed to labour with, took her by the hand, and invited her, who was as willing as himself, to walk in the garden, pretending before his attendants, that they went to meet Argenis. After they were come to a private part of the garden, “ I believe (said Seleniffa) the princess will soon come this way ; on which Radirobanes commanded his followers to wait there, while himself and Seleniffa struck into a
close

close walk over-shaded with trees. But now Seleniffa seemed to be at a loss for words, her mind laboured with contending passions, her faith to Argenis, and her desire to serve Radirobanes. He seemed surprised at her emotions. At length she began. "Is there not occasion for me to tremble and look pale, since this is the first time in my life that I ever disobeyed Argenis! But it is worth so great a price to cure her against her will of a most dangerous malady. It is you, Oh king, that must be the *Æsculapius* for her disease; only be careful that the discovery of this secret for the service of you both be not my ruin. May the gods, Oh king, grant you sons to succeed you, lest Sardinia be troubled with such calamities as have fallen upon Sicily: for because our king had only a daughter, Lycogenes was emboldened to raise the storm, which had nearly destroyed Sicily. Do not wonder, Sir, that I begin my relation from so distant an original; for from thence I must fetch the thread of that discourse, which you desire to hear. Lycogenes, puffed
up

up with his own consequence, and the king's easiness, aspired to the marriage of Argenis: but the king scorning his alliance, he, being powerful in kindred and friends, plotted to take her by violence. His design was discovered to the king; but such was the state of Sicily, or to speak more truly, such was the king's remissness, being grown timorous in his old age, that he chose rather to secure the lady from the intended rape, than to punish the traitor. There is a castle situated upon a hill, about twenty miles from Syracuse; once the seat of our ancient kings, and a place of great strength. The river Alabus surrounds the right side of the castle, from whence it falls into the sea; it is fortified with high walls and towers for the greater security. There the king enclosed his Argenis, with only twenty maids and matrons to attend her: he called in the aid of religion to colour his design, saying, that he had been admonished in his dreams, that a grievous crime would shortly be committed, unless Argenis was secluded from the sight of all men; that the stars and the oracles

also

also threatened her with the same misfortune; but few people were ignorant of the true reason of this seclusion. To me, who had brought her up from infancy, the king committed the care of Argenis, and he also published an edict, making it death for any man to set his foot within the castle, excepting the king himself. None of the maids or women were suffered to go out of the castle without my leave; only myself, who had the chief trust, had liberty to go out in the Ides of each month, to perform certain religious rites, for the health and safety of my family. A great number of soldiers were encamped, and three thousand kept to guard by turns. If you will believe me, Oh king, this solitude was not unpleasant to me, especially at first, when we composed our minds, tired with the noise and tumult of the city, into a state of rest and quietness. While the innocent youth of Argenis was satisfied with the sports that her attendants presently contrived for her amusement; so that I often admired the happiness of her gentle spirit, and yet grieved at the iniquity
of

of the times, that compelled the heiress of Sicily to dwell in so strait a compass for safety. But I will be more brief in my narration." "No, mother, said he, I beg you will not; for though I do not yet understand how far I am concerned in these things, yet it pleases me to hear of the policy of Meleander, and the youth and disposition of Argenis." Then Seleniffa went on. "We disposed of our time in such a manner, that weariness might not make Argenis pine at her restraint. She spent not much time in dressing, but she delighted much in a pleasant grove that was within the limits of the castle; there she with a little bow used to contend with her maidens, who should shoot nearest the mark: a merry applause was the prize of the harmless victory. They had also prizes for running, and sometimes they would contend for these, with many other innocent games; which I encouraged in my fair charge, because these exercises strengthened her body, and kept her mind from being employed on her situation. She would sometimes divert herself with
viewing

viewing the monuments of her ancestors : she delighted greatly in hearing and reading history ; she was taught all sorts of curious needlework at other hours ; and at the same time, would listen to pleasant tales, which were invented and told for her entertainment. This, Oh king, was the education of your Argenis ! With these exercises and employments was her youth trained up, before other cares had broke in upon the harmless and happy peace of her mind.

C H A P. VIII.

Selenissa relates how a young stranger, called Theocrine, was recommended to her secrecy and protection.

“ONE day, being at Syracuse, in the temple of Juno, (I remember well the time ; methinks I now stand at the altar, and offer the incense, the circumstance dwells so strongly in my memory) while I was sacrificing, and recom-

recommending the fate of Argenis and myself to the goddess, a maiden of exquisite beauty entered the temple. She was tall and graceful, but her dejected countenance bespoke ill fortune. She had only one man in her company, who followed her with his head covered, that one could scarcely see his face. As she came forward, there was a sudden murmur in the temple, enquiring who she was, or from whence she came; for her face was unknown, and her habit foreign and unlike that of the Sicilians. She walked on with such grace and majesty, that in looking on her I forgot my devotions. She not staying long near the goddess, nor offering any gift at the altar, came up to my side, and fell down on her knees to me, that would have hindered her, saying, "Lady, this day gives you an unexpected opportunity of shewing your goodness: if you will follow the example of the goddess whom you so devoutly worship, conduct me to some private place, where I may utter to you the sum of my wishes." I raised her up while

while thus soliciting, and carried her to my sister's house, where I lodged. Being in private, I first enquired from whence she came into Sicily; for she spoke Greek, but so that you might know it was not her native language. I thought her an Etruscan, and by her neighbourhood to Greece to have got her knowledge of our language; but the beauty of her face and complexion was far beyond that country. Then said she, "That you may perceive I do not falsify my birth, nor require assistance to the prejudice of the giver, behold, lady, the relicks of my inheritance, which, if the fates continue to plague my native country, will serve for my support in any part of the world." Thus saying, she opened a box full of very rich jewels, and also drawing aside her gown, she shewed me her pockets lined with the same valuable commodities, such as were not the riches of a private person. Having again examined her face, and observed many marks and tokens of a good disposition, I was astonished at her situation, and earnestly desired her to tell me, who and what

what she was. "I am (said she) an unfortunate maiden, and one to whom the best relief will be to lie concealed from the gazing multitude; but that you may not think me a vagabond, or one brought hither by chance, I bring you a letter from a woman of high quality, though a stranger and personally unknown to you; tho' from her great opinion of you she has chosen you for the highest trust she can repose in you, and who therefore deserves your best assistance: she is my mother." So saying, she gave me this letter, which you see here. I took it out of my cabinet, where I keep my greatest secrets, in order to read it to you. Now hear what it contains.

"Alcæa to Selenissa, health. If you ask how it happens, that you know not me, and that I am well acquainted with you, know that this is one of the privileges of virtue, that her children cannot be unknown. You had not been chosen by the king of Sicily to educate his daughter, if he could have found one more worthy of such a charge. I have heard the report
of

of your name in distant countries, which you call barbarous; yet notwithstanding have pity upon me who am a stranger, and of your own sex; and perhaps this may be an inducement with you that I am of Greek extraction. Receive this my dearest pledge into your care, receive my only daughter. She is of the noblest blood: she can relate to you the history of our misfortunes, which have obliged me to take this course for her preservation. I shall think her happy in the midst of her calamities, if you will take care of her, and instruct her how to be such an one as yourself. Farewel."

"Having read this letter, I desired her to acquaint me with whatever her mother had given her in charge. "My country (said she) is Gallia, where the river Rhone pours itself out of a great lake. My name is Theocrine; my father was highly esteemed in his own country, which is of no great extent; but he was a sovereign prince, and was called Commilodorus. He dying, left me grown up to woman's estate, and a son but just out of swathing

clothes. Being near his end, he conjured his brother, who was called Icciobates, by all the gods celestial and infernal, that he would not forsake his infant son, his youthful daughter, nor his widowed wife, which while he swore to perform, bathed in hypocritical tears, my father died. For a short time, we thought ourselves happy in the care of such an uncle, he took so much care of our patrimony, he was so kind to us and to my mother; but the true end of all this was to preserve our inheritance for himself. He knew, that if my brother and myself were made away with, he should be the undoubted heir: he therefore laid a plot to poison us — a wickedness yet unknown in our country! Towards the end of a feast was this mischief committed in poisoned sweetmeats, of which my dear brother eat greedily, by my uncle's earnest persuasion, and they were offered to me; but whether it were from the care of my good genius, or the over-forwardness of my uncle in persuading us, I refused to eat any of them. When we returned home to my mother,

mother, and when my brother soon after fell sick, I told her faithfully what I suspected. She being somewhat jealous before, which the present danger aggravated, bathed her son with her warm tears, as the malady prevailed, first in one part of his body, then in another, till the unhappy child expired. This villain, this poisoner, had the heart to stand by, counterfeiting the deepest sorrow; and, lest the body should be observed to be discoloured, he ordered it to be interred immediately, giving for a reason, that my mother would be overcome with grief, by having the dead body constantly in her sight. She seemed to appear ignorant of the matter, lest my uncle, made shameless by the detection of his wickedness, should with more boldness practise the same on me. And now the corpse, being anointed, was carried forth to be buried. My mother led me alone into a private room, and with her hair dishevelled she thus spoke: "My miserable girl, I know not which most to lament, my son, who is now carried out to be consumed, or thee, who I fear art

reserved for the same fate ! Thy brother is past all feeling of human miseries, no lamentations can recal him ; but thou perhaps, by my care and policy, mayst be preserved. Let us consult together, let us think upon some course for thy safety, before the cruelty of our enemies overtake us."

" While we were thus mourning, there came in Praxetas, a most faithful friend, the son of another brother of my father by a concubine. " Cease (said he) to lament those evils that are past redress, and while you have it in your power, think of escaping from those dangers that may be avoided." " Oh, worthy Sir, (said my mother) advise us what to do, who are stupified with grief, and unable to help ourselves." " If (resumed he) you permit me to speak freely, I must say I think Theocrime cannot be safe any way but by flight, and this must be speedy. Therefore, while thy brother's funeral pile is burning, do thou, as if frantic with grief, wander about, as if without knowing whither ; and after a while, being

being got away from all company, retire to the back-gate of my house. I will be there to receive thee alone, and without a light; and there I will keep thee concealed till we have resolved what course to take. Thou, Alcæa, must feign that thy daughter is lost; thy son's death and her danger will give thee occasion enough for tears." My mother approved his advice, and commanded me to obey him. I did not delay to execute my part of the plot, but slipped out, and being seen following my brother's corpse, I got away from the mourners, and came to Praxetas's house. He hid me in the most private part of it, and my mother acted her part, enquiring every where for her daughter. She only knew where I was. She also intrèated Icciobates, that he would send about to the next towns to seek for me, and bring me back again; for she feared that I should destroy myself out of grief for my brother's death. He omitted no means to find me out; for it very much concerned him to know certainly, whether I were living or dead.

“But when for several days I had been sought in vain, my mother celebrated my funeral rites, as for one certainly dead. She then resolved with Praxetas to remove me out of the tyrant’s reach. In the mean time, she was to make choice of some young nobleman of the neighbouring provinces, who should marry me, and claim my inheritance. She thought she could send me no where more safely, than where we had never before had any correspondence, that my uncle’s diligence in seeking after me might by these means be eluded; and above all others, my mother made choice of you, sage matron, for this trust; she earnestly desired, that her daughter might be placed under your care. Having thus determined, my mother went to Icciobates, desiring that he would enquire of the gods what was become of me, and that none would answer more truly and certainly than the oracle of Apollo at Delphos; adding, that if it pleased Icciobates, she would send Praxetas thither. He highly applauded her advice; for he earnestly desired to know where I

was,

was, or how I died. Neither did he suspect Praxetas: he gave offerings for the god, and with a great sum of money tempted Praxetas to let none but himself know the answer from the oracle; but he keeping his faith with us, carried me in a small bark down the river to the sea: there he met with a ship of Epidamnium, which was sailing homewards. When he was assured that all the passengers were strangers, he carried me on board, and called me his sister before the mariners. They were hired to land us in Sicily, and have performed their agreement. Behold me here, O Selenissa, forgetful of my freedom, but rather indebted to Icciobates, if you will take me under your care. Praxetas follows me in the habit of a servant: he is my kinsman, but born of a concubine: from him, worthy lady, you may hear at large an account of our travels, and whatever else I have briefly related to you."

CHAP. IX:

Selenissa continues her relation. How Theocrine was received into the castle. Of the friendship between her and Argenis, and the treason of Lycogenes.

“**W**HILE Theocrine was speaking, so sweet a modesty graced her discourse, so meekly and properly did she lament her misfortunes, that methought I felt myself equally affected.”

“And I too, by the faith of the gods ! interrupted Radirobanes, I have long been impatient to know what you did with her. Had she come to me, I would not have been contented to shelter her with a timorous piety, but I would have torn Icciobates from his prey, and offered him bound to the virgin for a sacrifice.” Selenissa smiled, praised his spirit, and then thus continued : “ I was in doubt how to act ; for such a suppliant, I thought, should not be rejected, who by her person and behaviour, and the richness of her
jewels,

jewels, could not be suspected to say aught but truth. And on the other hand, Argenis was entrusted to my care, that I might not bring any person to her but those who were appointed. Therefore I said to her, "My sweet maiden, you might have gone to others more able to do you service, but to none that would more truly have pitied your misfortunes. But what you desire is not in my power to grant, for I live a recluse life in a castle with the king's daughter. But my sister shall be my substitute in this affair, who I will undertake shall be as careful of you, as if you were her own child." She seemed disappointed, and blushing cast her eyes upon the ground. "How well (said she) might I be concealed in that castle, if by your means I might be received into the princess's service?" Her undeserved misfortune touched my heart: I therefore desired her to be of good cheer, and hope for the best. I then delivered her and Praxetas to the care of my sister, till I should acquaint the king,

who was then at Syracuse, with the whole story."

Here again Radirobanes interrupted her : " And what (said he) did Meleander resolve ? Did he fly to comfort her himself, or did he commit that office to another ? I am tortured to find you so slow in helping this unfortunate maiden ! I expected that you would have relieved me from my own cares, but instead of that you have interested me in those of others. Yet I am pleased to forget awhile my own malady, while I listen to the story of the unhappy fair one, neither do I wish you to shorten any part of it." " Do not think (said Selenissa) that I fell into this narration without design ; you will know hereafter whether you are not concerned in it. Meleander heard my relation with the same generous indignation that you have now expressed. " I (said he) will visit this afflicted maiden." " By no means, Sir, said I : your courtesy might discover our suppliant ; the noblemen and ladies would afterwards visit her, and among so many the secret might be discovered, and
that

that privacy lost, in which she desires to live among us. If you will permit me to carry her into the castle to Argenis, she will enjoy the security she wishes, and you may there see her with convenience." "I freely give leave, my Selenissa, (said he;) and let it be your care that she be well treated, and want for nothing that we can do to comfort her." "Now, said Radiobanes, thou pleasest me, Meleander! Now thou art worthy to be the father of Argenis!" At these words Selenissa smiled. Let us see, said she, if you will always be thus favourably disposed towards Theocrine: she will this day stand in need of your good opinion. I will proceed to the sequel of my story. After I had obtained my petition, I returned joyfully to my sister, and acquainted her with the goodness of the king, who had granted all that we desired. And now, Theocrine, said I, you are my second charge; I am commanded to respect you equally with Argenis. But she earnestly requested, that she might be treated in the same manner as the rest of the attendants of

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the

the princess. “ For so (said she) shall I be sheltered from public report and observation.” I thought the time long till I could carry her to the castle, being assured that Argenis would be delighted with the company of this incomparable maid, sent us as it were by the gods. But the yearly sacrifice of my family was near, which could not be performed without my presence. The next day after the sacrifice, we sent Praxetas to Delphos; for he said, that if he neglected to perform his vows, Iccibates might come to hear of it; but after he had consulted the oracle of Apollo, he would return to Syracuse, and then we might consider what answer to give to the tyrant. After his departure, I took Theocrine into my chariot, and was so engaged by the pleasure of her conversation, that we arrived at the castle before I perceived we had left Syracuse. When I presented her to Argenis, she was struck with her singular beauty, shape, and proportion. Before the women, I spoke sparingly of Theocrine, that she was a foreigner, who going to Africa,
was

was wrecked upon the coast of Sicily. But afterwards in private, I told her story to the princess, who spoke to her after this manner. “My dear guest, give me leave to call you my sister! If you think me worthy of that name, I will not henceforward call myself my father’s only child. I wish you would permit my servants to pay you that respect that is due to your birth and quality; but that you may know the power you have over us, we will obey your pleasure in this and all things beside. Chuse in what manner you will be served; and whatever you would have concealed, Selenissa and I will never discover.”

Radirobanes could no longer contain himself: “O blessed Theocrine (he exclaimed) to be thus beloved by Argenis! To be so received, entertained, and spoken to! To be with her at all times without a rival!” “You speak too soon (said Selenissa) you should first have known the sympathy of their minds, and the uninterrupted harmony between them. Yet we were not without contention; but it was
between

between my mistress and me, who should most love Theocrina. Our affection was increased by her modesty. Nor was there any one in the castle, whom she did not win to love and respect her, by her courtesy and her many amiable qualities. She delighted in whatever she perceived Argenis did, and performed the same exercises, but with such discretion, that she always suffered her to get the better, and then she would artfully feign anger to encrease the triumph of the conqueror. She was altogether ignorant of the use of the needle or distaff: she said, that in her country, maidens of noble birth followed hunting and all the nobler exercises; yet she was desirous to learn our works, and attended to the instructions given her. Nothing pleased us more than the acuteness of her wit, always delightful and inoffensive. She understood poetry, and her verses were greatly superior to those that are commonly sung to the lute. The difference of her accent from ours seemed to add to the graces of her speech: she understood both the Greek and Italian languages,

languages, and in writing she made none of those faults she did in speaking.

“ Thus we spent our time innocently and pleasantly, till our happiness was interrupted by a mischievous conspiracy of Lycogenes. He being impatient at the policy of the king, to preserve his daughter from his machinations, plotted the destruction of both; for which purpose he hired two men, who had assured him that they were entirely at his devotion, and had before committed acts of villany for his service. He pointed out the castle and told them, if they would show themselves men, there was a noble prey inclosed there; adding, that when the king should come to visit his daughter, they must (in the night) get over the walls, as where no guards nor men servants were admitted within the walls, how easy was it to surprize an old man naked and asleep? But they must secure Argenis, whom he intended to compel to marry him, and to dispose of the king's life as might be most convenient to him. “ But who, said they, shall admit us into the castle? or rather, who will

will not observe our going in? There being so careful a guard of soldiers kept, who watch almost every bird that flies over them."

"After a long consultation, they determined the side next the sea to be the most proper for this attempt; for the king trusting to the natural strength of the situation, had placed no guard on that side, therefore a small boat might easily land there, and the roaring of the water would keep the noise from being heard. But again, they considered that the cliff was too high for any ladder to reach. "Then (said one of the russians, who afterwards confessed the whole plot) leave that to me, I will find means to get into the castle: but one associate is not sufficient. We must seek the king in a large house, and through despair he will defend himself to the last extremity; we must also provide that the lady do not escape us, who if she hear us, will either hide herself or else alarm the guard. Fewer than eight will not serve the turn: if you would rather choose them yourself, send them to us
2 speedily;

speedily; but if you will trust to us, we know where to find those that will give a good account of this business." In answer to this, Lycogenes promised that he would put himself and his fortune into their hands: "To-morrow (said he) the prey will fall into the snare, for I hear that Meleander goes then to visit Argenis. Make haste while your resolution is warm, and suffer not those to whom you impart the secret, to delay till they waver, or betray you. I will be at my house by the sea-side, which is but five miles from the castle; bring thither your prize, and you shall share my fortunes."

CHAP. X.

Seleniffa continues to relate how Lycogenes's men entered the castle, and forced their way into Argenis's apartment. The valour of Theocrine on that occasion.

THIS business being thus contrived among these traitors, fortune seemed also to further their purpose; for Meleander came to the castle, and the night being dark and rainy, neither eyes nor ears could discover the treachery. The king, when he came to visit his daughter, used to send away his attendants at the castle-gate, that they might either retire to the camp, or go to the next town to lodge; and we provided all things necessary for him. This was the time of most relaxation to that excellent old man; he left his cares and his majesty at the gate, and among us was in a state of perfect quietness and freedom. That evening that was appointed for the execution of this treason, he, ignorant of his danger, was
unusually

unusually chearful. After supper, he began to enquire with what sports we had spent that wet and wintery day? In telling stories, Sir, said I, in which our maidens greatly delight. “Nay, said he, you must not let them spend their time in fables; you, Selenissa, who are yourself an old woman and almost a fable. But I will have them all related to me, what tales they have brought to promote the entertainment of the company.” We all laughed, and when he urged it, those that were nearest were bold to tell him their fooleries, till such time as the king by little and little fell asleep; and lying down upon the bed where he had supped, he began to snore: and because we knew, that if he were awakened, he would not fall asleep again a long time, we covered him up warm, and setting a light by him, without any noise, we all left the room.

“The attendants and servants were all gone to their private rooms. I was in conversation with Argenis and Theocrine, (for Theocrine and I had each our pallet in Argenis’s chamber) when suddenly we
heard

heard a confused noise of voices, and the sound of footsteps coming towards us. I did not at first suspect any thing more, than that the maidens were playing together; but the danger approaching nearer, I perceived the voices to be those of men, uncommon to our ears. While I yet doubted between fear and surprise, the chamber doors with violent blows were broke to pieces. Wonder not if the remembrance of that night doth now astonish me, when the horror of the sight overcame me. Amazing villany! Behold armed men entered the chamber! Argenis and myself could do nothing but shriek; but Theocrine, hear, oh king! a relation worthy to be transmitted to posterity!—Theocrine advanced against the villains as if she had been inspired by some god. They stood amazed at the boldness of the damsel, as doubtful what she would do. Theocrine stopped the first that entered the chamber, and flying upon him like a fury, she wrested the sword out of his right hand; with the same agility she caught a shield from his left, in as little
time

time as I can relate it. I looked not more astonished at the greatness of the danger, than at the strangeness of our assistant. She struck one so violently on the neck, that the blood gushed out upon me and Argenis. She then pressed upon them with irresistible courage, striking one with the blade of her sword, another with the hilt, a third with her shield: but the ruffians, confounded at first with surprise at their opponent, now renewed their attack with more violence; they were not ashamed to fight against a woman, the room rung with clashing of arms, the cries and shrieks of the women, who now came running in among us, made it appear like a town taken by assault, and the appearance of a much greater tumult, than could be imagined in that place, or among such a number of persons.

CHAP. XI.

Seleniffa's narration interrupted by Argenis. The princess suspects her fidelity, and conceals the coming of Poliarchus into Sicily. The return of Gelanorus into Africa. Poliarchus cures himself of an ague by an extraordinary method.

WHILE Seleniffa was relating her story, the mind of Radiobanes was agitated with suspense, and expectation of the event of this extraordinary combat. When the appearance of Argenis put an end to their conversation, whose company was never till then unwelcome to Radiobanes. By chance she returned from her walk through that part of the garden, which she was not used to do. When they saw her they could say no more, but that the next morning early, they would meet in the same place, under pretence of taking a walk. Argenis was not pleased at the sight of Radiobanes; for she wanted to speak with Seleniffa alone, being more chearful

chearful than when she left her apartment. When he came forward to meet her, she received him courteously, having private reasons for hating him less than before; and that she might not discover the cause of her present chearfulness, she entered into a trifling conversation, in the course of which, she shewed a copy of verses, which had just been presented by a poet, in some degree of esteem; in which he had celebrated the happiness of the king's grove, where Argenis used to walk, either to avoid the heats at noon, or to enjoy the coolness of the evening air. She held the paper open in her hand, and gave it to Selenissa in such a manner, as to invite Radirobanes to read the verses.

Thrice happy wood, chear'd by Apollo's ray!
 Where lofty trees their waving tops display;
 Courting cool Zephyrs to refresh these groves,
 Fill'd with the murmurs of Chaonian doves,
 Yield not to Ida where the gods reside,
 Nyssa's fam'd top, or Pindus' flow'ry side.
 Who shall thy praises sing in meekest verse,
 Thy situation, nymphs and gods rehearse!
 See here the poplar, there the elder white,
 The plane-tree, the wild ash's tow'ring height,
The

The princely oak, by nought but thunder mov'd,
The spreading beech, the elm by Bacchus lov'd!
The lofty cypress his proud head displays,
Minerva's olive, and Apollo's bays.

A fount divine waters the earth beneath,
Producing flow'rs perfuming Zephyr's breath;
With such, fair Proserpine before her rape,
In Enna's field had fill'd her virgin lap.

Here all the night doth Philomel express
Her kindred's sorrows and her own distress.
Here when the night grows old, and pale to see

The rosy morn;—behold on every tree

The painted choristers salute the day,

And fill the air with their melodious lay!

Within this shade the dryads take their sport,

Hence ye prophane, this is the nymphs resort!

Ye sylvan maids, your darling care protect,

Our king's fair daughter! her chaste steps direct,

Oft to this grove leading the virgin train,

Which nature did for her delight ordain.

Oh, royal maid! the care of Sicily,

This grove still with thy presence dignify!

The ground shall keep thy foot's impression still,

And southern gales with sweetest fragrance fill.

Thy name shall be engrav'd on every tree;

Nor does this grove alone rejoice in thee.

If thou shouldst walk on Lybia's parched sands,

Or near the barren north on frozen lands,

The air will change, new flowers the fields shall dress,

And thou with better fate each climate bless.

Radirobanes

Radirobanes having attended Argenis to her apartment, took his leave because the evening came on, and went to Meleander. Then said Argenis to Selenissa, "I have long desired to speak with you alone, I cannot believe that you take any pleasure in the tedious company of that troublesome suitor; but why did he stay so long with you?" To this Selenissa answered very differently from what Argenis expected. "That she did not know he was a man of such pleasant and delightful conversation; that his agreeable discourse had power to make her forget the approaching night; but that he frequently complained of the tortures of love and of her cruelty."

Argenis being of a quick and lively wit, did not approve these commendations of a man whom she greatly disliked; but in order to draw her on to tell her all, she thus proceeded: "But what does he intend farther? and when will he return to his own country?" "Give up that expectation, said the old woman; he will not depart unless he is compelled. He is

desperately in love with you, and that passion will not be quenched without much blood. I wish that Poliarchus were here, and you under the protection of his sword! But yet, I fear we should be taxed with ingratitude, if we should drive away by violent means, the man by whose assistance we were preserved. Suppose you should soothe his passion by some slight hopes; being deceived by delay, he might be sent home to Sardinia, with the expectation of being recalled, when things are ripened for his appearance. I speak not thus for his sake, but for your own and the king's. It would doubtless grieve you, that Sicily, so lately freed from civil commotions, should by your nuptial torch again be set on fire." The strength of her own penetration, quickened by the industry of love, made Argenis soon perceive that Selenissa was changed. Yet she concealed her anger for the present, and mildly signified her disapprobation of Radiobanes's passion; because she had another scheme in hand, which was to over-reach that cunning old woman. Therefore pausing for
a while;

a while ; “ I am sorry, Seleniffa, (said she) that this deserving king should flatter himself with the hope of what he can never enjoy. But we will think further of these things hereafter.”

The old woman was pleased, thinking that fortune began to favour her deceit : she therefore left the princess alone, who then began to consider and to grieve, that the partaker of all her secrets should deserve to be suspected. With whom could she now share the cares that oppressed her ? To whom could she impart her joys or sorrows ? Then half smiling she observed, that the gods were never altogether favourable or severe to her ; but there was commonly a mixture of both in their dispensations. That day had been fortunate enough to her, and she would bear with patience what followed it. And even now she had reason to be thankful to the gods, that she had not revealed to Seleniffa what had lately happened, nor what she intended to do.

Now the secret she concealed was this : while she was walking in the grove, Ar-

fidas came to her, and informed her that
 Poliarchus was in the city, closely con-
 cealed in Nicopompus's house, and it was
 resolved among them, that in the night
 he should be brought by the postern gate
 into the palace. The lady therefore hast-
 ened to Seleniffa, to disclose the joy she
 was scarcely able to contain; but as she
 was beginning to speak, she found cause
 to suspect, that her confidante was
 gained by Radirobanes, and therefore
 she said nothing of the arrival of Poli-
 archus, whom the warmth of youthful
 affection had excited once more to a
 secret and dangerous visitation. For when
 Gelanorus returned to Africa, and found
 not Poliarchus at Clupea, as he had ap-
 pointed, he went forward to Hyanisbé's
 court, where he found his lord sick of a
 fever. He there delivered to him the
 letters of Argenis, and acquainted him
 with the miserable state of Sicily, and in
 what danger the lady was from Lycogenes,
 who was almost assured of victory. He
 omitted nothing but what Argenis had
 forbidden him to speak of, the alteration
 of

of the king's regards towards him ; but of Archombrotus he spoke freely, that he behaved with arrogance, and seemed to despise or at least to forget his friendship for Poliarchus. Nothing is so sharp-sighted as jealous love : Poliarchus instantly suspected, that Archombrotus was smitten with the beauty of Argenis, and from a friend was become a rival. " What (said he) can prevent his knowing that I am her lover ? We do nothing, Gelanorus, to any purpose, unless we presently pass over into Sicily. Shall I sit idle, and suffer another man's valour to preserve my Argenis ? Shall she be indebted for her deliverance to any other but myself ?" Gelanorus heard his lord's resolution with grief of heart ; for he feared the resentment of Meleander, and Argenis had taken away his liberty of advising upon that subject. He therefore resolved to be faithful to both, and speaking nothing of the alteration of Meleander, he advised his lord, that it was dangerous for him to offer himself to the injuries of fortune among his enemies, in the midst of the

licentiousness of a civil war ; that the best way was to sail first into his own country, and raising forces there, to return to Sicily like himself, and bring assistance in his own person. “ I will do so (answered Poliarchus) but you know that in my way homeward I must pass by Sicily : shall I go past that land and not stop to salute Argenis ? She would say I repented of the dangers I had run through for her sake, if I should refuse to encounter new ones for the pleasure of seeing her. When I am on shore in Sicily, I will easily find out some device to see her without my enemies knowledge or suspicion.”

“ Then (said Gelanorus) I shall never live to see you again, unless you will grant me one request : promise me that, when you arrive in Sicily, you will trust your safety to none but Arfidas, till after you have seen Argenis ; then I leave it to you both to take your resolution. Poliarchus, attentive to the advice of his faithful servant, promised to follow his counsel ; but his body did not second the vigour of his mind : he was violently shaken

shaken with a quartan ague, which the agitation and care of his new undertaking so much increased, that the following night, though his cold fit was less, his fever was longer and more violent than ever. But Poliarchus, impatient of physic and physicians, which directed him to master his disorder by weakening his body; calling to mind that he had heard examples of those, who had driven away agues by drinking a large quantity of wine, determined to try the experiment. "No wonder (said he) if the ague should leave me when I am spent and dying, but I will rather wrestle with it while I have strength. Suppose it is doubtful whether this method will kill or cure me? I am satisfied if it presently without delay decide my fate: for such is my present situation, that it is worse to be sick than to die." Not all the prayers and tears of Gelanorus could divert him from this experiment; not the being adjured by the remembrance of his friends, his mother, his country, or even in the name of his beloved Argenis, could alter his

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resolution.

resolution. Queen Hyaniſbé herſelf intreated in vain. The next time the ſit returned, he drank a large draught of old wine, which diſperſed the heat throughout his temperate veins, unuſed to that kind of liquor. The phyſicians reſuſed to ſtay with a man, who, as they ſaid, procured his own death; but he answered them ſmiling, that, if they left him, Bacchus would be his phyſician. He continued drinking wine ſo long as the cold ſit laſted, till his blood being thoroughly heated, produced a different kind of warmth, and at length occaſioned a profuſe ſweating; after which he was carefully rubbed and dried, and he ſoon found himſelf better and ſtronger. A ſecond time he diſpoſed himſelf to wreſtle with his diſtemper in the ſame manner, when, ſtrange to be told! his youth, courage, and good fortune (which are what generally give reputation to phyſicians) drove away his tedious malady, and reſtored him to health.

C H A P. XII.

The arrival of Poliarchus in Sicily. He hears tidings which affect him greatly. Sends Gelanorus to Eipercté, who sees Arfidas, and returns with him to Poliarchus.

HYANISBE, who thought his rashness a just cause of grief, now rejoiced equally at his recovery; but her joy was not of long duration; for she could not bear the thoughts of his departure, especially as it was easy to see in his face the marks of his scarcely-recovered sickness; for he spent but a few days to regain his strength, when he earnestly entreated her permission to depart. The queen, who loved him as a son, accompanied him to the gate, with many tears and good wishes, only intreating of him, that if any chance should bring him again near her country, he would not fail to visit her. He went immediately on board a ship hired by Gelanorus, and as soon as

they were embarked, he urged the sailors to make all possible haste, promising, that if in a certain time they would show him the land of Sicily, their pay should be doubled. The hope of gain quickened their diligence, and upon their shewing him the island, Poliarchus willingly acknowledged the debt. But then he began to tremble at the contemplation of things of a very different nature. What joys, what sorrows, did that land afford! It was his fate, his ruin or felicity, depended upon it! What, if the same storms should again arise, and threaten to overwhelm him! But when his thoughts presented Argenis to him, all those perils, and all images of misfortunes, were again utterly effaced and forgotten.

There was a little harbour of no account, about twelve miles from Eipercté: there he landed, and determined to keep close in a mean inn, as if he were sea-sick, till he had sent to Arsidas. He asked many questions of the host, and among them, where the king now resided. "He is not yet removed from Eipercté," (said

(said the host) since the defeat of Lycogenes. In that place he receives the messengers from the cities, which contend who shall first send their submissions." "Is then Lycogenes overthrown?" said Poliarchus. "Utterly, (said the host.) He suffered a most deserved death, and his head was stuck upon the top of the castle some time for a spectacle. But now they say the king will soon remove to Syracuse, that he may shew the king of Sardinia the place of chief note in Sicily." Poliarchus enquired, how the king of Sardinia came into Sicily. "What, (said the man) do you not know that he brought an army to the assistance of our king Meleander, and that it is by his valour that peace is restored to Sicily?" Poliarchus held his peace; but he foresaw that this change in the affairs of Sicily foreboded many troubles to him. He came now the danger was past; strangers had assisted Meleander to vanquish Lycogenes, and Argenis was indebted to the king of Sardinia for her preservation and safety.

Therefore, leaving the host, he took Gelanorus aside. “O Gelanorus! (said he) find some means to let me know what part of the world I am in; that is, let me know what effect these changes of the state have upon my welfare. You must discover what is doing at court.” He had still with him the suits of false hair that Timoclea gave him. He gave one of them to Gelanorus, with a peasant’s habit, and commanded him in the evening to go and find out Arfidas, and let him know, that he waited for him by the sea-side, tired with the various changes of fortune, and prepared to bear his destiny, whether it were good or evil.

While Gelanorus was on his way, several travellers, who were also going to Eipercté, overtook him; and though he were artfully disguised, he would gladly have avoided them; but coming to a narrow way, he could not pass by them, who first saluted him. Therefore, with the confidence of a stranger and a traveller, he boldly enquired of them concerning the event of the late war, and the manner of
of

of the victory. They related the success with a kind of vain-glory, as we use to magnify our state in a time of prosperity among strangers; but two heroes especially they extolled to the skies. They said, Archombrotus, with Lycogenes's head, had cut off the imposthume that infected all Sicily; and Radiobanes, by his assistance and valour, obtained the victory, and he was to have Argenis for his reward: for so the report run, and what they heard and believed they told Gelanorus, who as soon as possible parted from them, and with many bitter sighs debated with himself, whether the news should be reported to his lord. On the one hand he feared, lest the very relation should destroy him; and on the other, he hoped that the mischief was not yet inevitable, but being timely discovered, might by his genius and good fortune be prevented. But first of all things he must see and speak with Arsidas; and now he was come within sight of Eipercté, when he saw a youth carrying nets, and leading a couple of greyhounds, which he knew

to be a servant of Arsidas. "Would to heaven, (said he) that I might meet with Arsidas himself! yet he will not come alone, and I cannot speak to him before his company." He therefore prepared himself to make use of whatever opportunity fortune should present. But, behold! while he was framing a contrivance, several other servants came with nets and hounds, and not far behind them Arsidas, with some of the Sardinian noblemen.

Gelanorus observed their faces, and finding them all strangers to him, he went boldly forward to Arsidas: "You are happily met, Sir, (said he.) I come from Rhegium, and bring you salutations, and a message from your father-in-law." When Arsidas stooped, he put his mouth close to his ear, "I am Gelanorus, (said he); but seem not to know me till we are alone."

Arsidas, amazed at this unexpected encounter, desired the Sardinians to go on softly before, for that he was stopped a little by urgent business. Under this pretence, he spoke privately but briefly with Gelanorus. Their conversation was

no more than served to inform him where Poliarchus was; and he promised Gelanorus, that as soon as they were engaged in the sport, he would lose them all, and go directly to Poliarchus. But now departing, he followed the Sardinians, to whom, by Meleander's command, he shewed the sport of hunting, while Gelanorus walked on, as if he were going to Eipercté; but as soon as Arfidas and his company were out of sight, he turned aside into another road, which he before was acquainted with, and returned to the inn. Poliarchus, impatient of delay, called out while he was entering the room, "What news, Gelanorus?" "Arfidas is coming, (said he;) I met him going to hunting, and by the time of day I guess he will soon be here." Gelanorus said no more; for he rather chose that Arfidas should relate the bad tidings than himself; but his countenance bespoke a troubled mind, and he could not refrain from frequent sighs. Poliarchus often urging, and at length beginning to threaten him, he related what he had heard by the way, and that

Argenis

Argenis was promised to Radirobanes. It was not grief, nor indignation, nor horror, that possessed Poliarchus at hearing this news; his emotion was more violent than any of those passions, to which we have given a name. And now no longer sorrowful, as one on whom fortune had no longer any power, he resolved to die; but he also resolved that his rival should perish with him.

When Arsidas entered the inn, he made the innkeeper believe he had lost his way in pursuit of his game; but after he went into a private room, and saw Poliarchus with his eyes fixed, and his body motionless, "Alas, (said he) noble youth, why do I see you thus? What can occasion you so much grief, while Argenis is in health and safety?" But Poliarchus answered, "I am well, Arsidas! I am very well! And be assured, that your Radirobanes and his bride shall find that I live."

C H A P. XIII.

Arfidas comforts Poliarchus. He goes to Eiperetê, and lodges with Nicopompus. Arfidas gives notice of his arrival to Argenis.

WHEN Arfidas found that Poliarchus had been deceived by report, he informed him of the true state of affairs; that the intentions of Meleander and Argenis were far different from the wishes and hopes of Radirobanes, or the reports of the people: so that by degrees Poliarchus was convinced of his mistake, and listened quietly to the relation of Arfidas, who advised him to throw off his disguise, and present himself to the king. He told him, that his enemies were destroyed, Timonides had been sent ambassador to him; he reminded him of the good will of Meleander, the constancy of Argenis, and the affection of his tried and faithful friends; and safe in such a guard, what had he to fear? Why rather

rather should he trust to a disguise, than to his own virtue and valour? But Gelanorus opposed this advice, reminding his lord of his promise given in Africa, that he would not reveal himself to any till he had spoken with Arsidas and Argenis; and Poliarchus declared, that he could not yet shew himself in public with safety to his honour; that he would first sail into his own country, from whence he would soon return in such a manner as to challenge the friendship of Meleander; that in the mean time, he desired to speak with Argenis only, and hoped by the means of Arsidas to be admitted to a conference with her.

“But at least (said Arsidas) you shall suffer Nicopompus to know that you are here. I cannot sufficiently praise the fidelity and love of that worthy man; he is continually extolling you himself, and rejoices to hear you praised. I am now a visitor at his house, and you cannot be any where more happily or safely concealed.” Poliarchus consented to this, and Gelanorus agreed to it. When they had taken
a little

a little rest, about midnight they set forward on their journey, and early in the morning came to Eipercté, where they were welcomed with tears of joy by Nicompompus. As soon as the day was advanced, Arsidas went to visit Argenis, but she was busied first in conference with her father, and then with Cleobulus; so that he could not speak with her, till seeking to avoid Radirobanes, she went to walk in the grove, as has been related. But when Argenis heard from Arsidas, that Poliarchus was come, forgetting all her sufferings, and the danger they both ran, she rejoiced more than so short and uncertain a felicity was worth: but notwithstanding her impatience, she was obliged to wait till evening, that he might be brought to the palace without danger. "I will be in my gallery that leads to the garden, (said Argenis) and only Selenissa will be with me, who will open the gate for you and Poliarchus. Go, my Arsidas, and fail not to be there at the time!" Full of joy, the princess then went to Selenissa, to share the secret and the happiness with her; but
concluding,

concluding, by her commendations of Radirobanes, that her faith was shaken, if not corrupted, she therefore in turn deceived her with some hopes of succeeding with her, and having shaken her off, she leaned upon the window that opened into the garden, and reflected upon what had lately passed. Two things employed her mind chiefly, the coming of Poliarchus, and the falshood of Selenissa. It was necessary to resolve, lest the latter should discover her lover coming to his appointment. She therefore thought it best to send a servant to Arsidas, telling him, that she was not at leisure that evening to see the pictures he was to bring her; that Arsidas should come to her early in the morning, but not bring the painter with him. Arsidas easily understood, that she was hindered from speaking to Poliarchus, and that not daring to speak freely, she had contrived the story of the pictures. He therefore went to comfort Poliarchus, who was extremely vexed at this delay, and he took Nicopompus to second him. They strove to divert him by various and chearful

cheerful discourses; sometimes they made him listen to his own praises, sometimes to those of Argenis; and sometimes they jested upon the pride and vain-glory of Radirobanes. But while they were employed in this office, they were interrupted by the coming of some friends: for Dunalbius had appointed to sup there with Antenor, and Hieroleander. While they were coming in, Nicopompus lamented that he must be torn from such a guest, and that Arfidas would be expected at supper. Poliarchus desired them to go cheerfully and sup heartily, lest Dunalbius should suspect there was some secret cause that hindered their mirth. Nicopompus then conveyed Poliarchus into a chamber next to the apartment they supped in, that he might hear their conversation. They talked only of common things, while the servants were present; but after they were withdrawn, Nicopompus, on purpose, introduced a conversation, in which he mentioned Poliarchus, that, being concealed, he might judge of his own reputation in Sicily, by the manner in which they spoke

spoke of him, while he was supposed to be absent. Dunalbius warmly commended so noble a gentleman: Antenor and Hieroleander took their turns; they spoke of his valour and courtesy, of his gentle and sociable disposition, and that in a lively and youthful mind he had all the ripeness of wit and judgement that are admired in old age. But because Arfidas perceived the emulation of Poliarchus against Radirobanes, he turned the conversation to the course of the civil war against Lycogenes, in the beginning of which the courage and conduct of Poliarchus had been very beneficial to the king. From thence he came by degrees to discourse of the Sardinians, and their king Radirobanes, and began to laugh at his boasting and follies. They spoke of his haughty carriage towards his own people, and observed, that many things slipped from him, that shewed his mind to be full of vanity, and his virtues only counterfeit.

CHAP. XIV.

Observations of Dunalbius on the flattery of poets, by which they corrupt the hearts of princes. Argenis and Selenissa dissemble their purposes with each other.

WHILE Dunalbius, Antenor and Hieroleander, testified their dislike of Radirobanes, giving instances of his pride and arrogance, and disdaining that Sicily should owe any thanks to so unworthy an auxiliary, Hieroleander smiling said, “But what if you had seen him this morning? Being swelled with impious flattery, he commended among his own people certain verses written of himself, which the poet could never have made if he had not been out of his wits, or else knew him to be mad, to whom they were addressed. I copied the conclusion of the poem, and by that you may guess at the rest.

If thou thy dreadful chariot drive to war,
Mars boasts no longer of his steeds or carr.

If

If thy swift steed thou proudly mount upon,
Cyllarus hates his constellation.

If with thy bended bow thou take the field,
Phœbus and Hercules are forc'd to yield.

So Cupid wou'd; but he can well foresee,
Spite of thy skill, his shafts shall conquer thee:
Hermes doth to thy eloquence submit;

Bacchus in beauty yields, Pallas in wit.

But since thy sceptre and thy conqu'ring fleet

Command the sea, and make both shores to meet,
Neptune submits his trident to thy reign.

Oh might we see the golden age again!

Wou'd Jove to thee resign his thund'ring throne,
And in all temples thou reign god alone!

All laughed at the sacrilegious flattery
of the poet, who only sought a reward
for himself by these wicked verses. But
Nicomompus being himself a poet, some-
what extenuated his offence, saying, that
“the liberty of poetry is such, that in order
to please the ear, we sometimes wander
beyond the limits of truth: and this we do
the more freely, because as we are allowed
to deal in fiction, it is rather a cause of
innocent mirth than of serious reproof:
but there are others who equal poets, in
their highest flatteries to princes and great
men.

men. Is Radirobanes the only man, who is thus abused, or do we not know another, who has been the same way deceived? In a word, all great men are born to this fate, and must leave some of their feathers on this treacherous birdlime." Dunalbius, moved with the love of the public good, spoke against this fallacy. "Thus it is (said he) that you unprovident subjects make yourselves friends of the king's vices, not perceiving that you thereby render both them and yourselves miserable. You render princes shameless, thinking they can do nothing wrong, after being accustomed to be praised for every thing. Princes are indeed worthy of pity; unless they have virtue enough to rescue themselves from these birds of prey, and apply themselves to the practice not of such things as others praise in them, but of such as they commend and admire in others. Their dignity so blinds them, that they cannot see what no man besides themselves can be ignorant of, what manners, what pleasures, what studies, will purchase the same, the approbation, or the hatred of

mankind. What shame, what wickedness, is it then, to seek out the secret inclinations of kings, in order to make our own advantages of their weaknesses? To commend whatever they are inclined to, to ease them of all restraint of modesty, and smooth the way to all those vices, which shame would otherwise have forbidden them to try! Why then should we wonder, that princes, being driven by the violent storm of flattery, should follow the bent of their own inclinations, no man endeavouring to resist the violent motion that impels them forward? The wiser men, whom they employ, either fear to advise in vain, or to administer unwelcome physic; or else they make a distinction between those vices, that only hurt the king, and those that injure the state. So that, if they can relieve the public, they do not offer to open the prince's eyes, that he might see his own misfortune, and be delivered from the snares of his flatterers. Do we not even pollute the name of virtues by bestowing them upon vices and follies? And if the prince do any thing wisely,
they

they bestow such immoderate applause, that (believe me, my friends!) I have often blushed with shame for those who wanted it. Yet I saw, that they were not ashamed, nor the prince displeased. What difference is there between this play, and one represented on the stage? When in both you praise to their faces, those whom when their backs are turned you laugh at and deride. But to come nearer to ourselves; it is not kings alone that are the objects of these deceits: we are all more or less subject to these maladies; we are kings to those, who expect favours from us, and they are kings to us in whose hands our desires are placed. We attempt them by flatteries, we soothe them by vanities, we attack them by the same weapons that kings fall by; the contagion is general, and we cannot too much guard against its influence. But, as for Rádiobanes, whose vanity and conceit gave the first hint to these complaints of mine, he deserves not that we should excuse or extenuate any of his faults; and, oh wretched Sicily, if

to his bed you ever condemn your Argenis !”

Poliarchus was so delighted with this speech, that he could hardly contain himself ; he would fain have embraced Dunalbius, for his boding of Radirobanes ; and he resolved to shew him some tokens of his favour, that he might draw from him more precepts of the same kind ; then he determined to recommend them all to Argenis, and to rely upon their fidelity in those affairs they had in hand. The guests being departed, Arsidas and Nicopompus returned to him, and having brought him to his chamber, they stayed with him there, till he, careful of his friends rest, and willing to be left to his own meditations, feigned himself drowsy, and they took their leave.

Argenis and Selenissa spent that night in mutual contrivances to deceive each other, thinking by what means, when the day came, each should get out of the other's sight ; for Selenissa wanted to meet Radirobanes without the knowledge of Argenis, and Argenis wanted to send

Seleniffa away, that she might not know of the coming of Poliarchus. Seleniffa, thinking she could never offend more covertly, than under the shadow of liberty, began of her own accord to speak of Radirobanes. She said, he had earnestly entreated her to meet him the next day in the same walk of trees; that he had something to communicate to her of great importance, and afterwards to be brought to the speech of Argenis. But Argenis prevented her, saying, "Go, mother, wherever you think necessary, and leave me to meditate upon what answer I shall make him the next time he renews his suit to me. Seleniffa replied, that she could do nothing better, smiling in her own wicked heart, that Argenis should appoint the time and place to betray herself; but she was ignorant, that she was likewise herself deceived, and not sent so much to Radirobanes, as out of the way of Poliarchus. It was early in the morning, and the most pleasant time for walking. And now Radirobanes waited in the garden, hardly more full of cares for Argenis

than for Theocrine; nor was the old woman more negligent, having risen earlier than usual. "I am going (said she) to the king of Sardinia: if his love be as great as he describes it, I think he has not taken much rest: he has, I fancy, been walking a great while; but at our time of life, we suffer the punishment of those pains, that are neither acknowledged nor valued by others." Argenis charged her not to part with Radirobanes till she came herself into the garden. This behaviour was most pleasing to Selenissa, who verily believed, that Argenis only wanted to gain a little time to wean herself from her former love, which must first be cured, before she could resolve to be favourable to Radirobanes.

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C H A P. XV.

*The meeting of Argenis and Poliarchus ;
their conversation ; their final resolution,
and the departure of Poliarchus.*

SELENISSA was scarcely got out of the door before Argenis sent to Arfidas, desiring him to come directly, and bring the stranger with him. He delayed not, but came and brought Poliarchus disguised with false hair, and in the dress of a pedlar, carrying several little pictures with him. And now that invincible courage, which no enemies, no dangers could daunt, forsook Poliarchus ; and he trembled when he considered that he was going to Argenis. She also changed colour incessantly, and she herself perceived that her voice faltered when she attempted to speak. There was a private gallery into which she used to retire, when she chose to enjoy her own thoughts and meditations : thither Arfidas conducted his guest. As soon as Poliarchus approached her, he

kneeled and kissed her hand, with such reverence as if it had been his deity. They both sighed extremely, and both blushed at their own emotions. He presently pulled off his disguise, and appeared in his own person. Arsidas then withdrew to the end of the gallery, to give them liberty to converse with more freedom. Then again their passions deprived them of utterance; and they stood silent till Argenis was relieved by tears. At length she thus spoke: “Do I then see thee, my dearest! or is it only a dream that presents thy resemblance, and gives a momentary joy to thy Argenis!” Poliarchus replied, “You see me indeed, lady! you see one suffering all his past miseries again by reflection; and now by beholding you, I am still more sensible of the misery of so long an absence. But if the recollection be not too painful, what have you thought of my dangers? Have you not condemned my absence? Did you excuse me to yourself for it?” “Alas! (replied the princess) you may judge by your own grief, how many miserable days I have passed in your
absence

absence! and so much the more unhappy, that I could not follow you through all the dangers, that you have encountered for my sake. Yet know, that there are some that presume to hope, I may prove inconstant. But tell me, art thou still the same, Poliarchus? Art thou indeed returned to Sicily? Art thou in health and safety? Alas! am not I the cause of the alteration I see in thy face? Must we again run the same dangers? Must thy banishment be renewed, and must we always live in doubts, fears, and dangers?" He then briefly acquainted her with all that had befallen him, since their separation; of his shipwreck; his adventures with the pirates; his reception at the court of Mauritania, and his being detained there by sickness.

Argenis, on her side, informed him of what more concerned them; the assistance, offer, and passion of Radiobanes; and that she feared, lest her father should accept for a son-in-law, a man who had deserved so well of him. "A misfortune, which if not hindered by you, (said she)

I will prevent by my own death; but think what it is to stand in continual expectation of this deadly stroke, being no farther off than the conclusion of this match, which the Sardinians urge incessantly. Beside, I am now left alone; I have none to comfort me; I am afraid of Radiobanes; I am not assured of my father, and even Selenissa is gained over by my enemy."

"I have a good while looked about for her (returned Poliarchus;) for this is the first time I ever spoke to you without her presence." "I will (said Argenis) make her as wretched, if I live, as she deserves to be. She favours the king of Sardinia, I know not why, nor how she came to change her opinion. But that you may not doubt her intention, she not only praises him to me in private, but persuades me to behave kindly to him, and by degrees to forsake you and return his passion. And at this time I have suffered her to go to meet him, that she should not know you are here with me. They are now in the garden deciding my fate; but she shall

not offend without her proper restitution; for if ever I be happy she shall be punished." Poliarchus was full of indignation at the thought of being betrayed by her, and was also struck with the danger of Radirobanes's being so powerful among the servants of Argenis, and offered himself to revenge the injury.

Then they consulted together what course to take, but could not fix upon any resolution that pleased them. Suppose Poliarchus should go to Meleander, declare himself to be a king, plead the merits of his friendship and good offices, and demand Argenis in marriage; and Argenis should confess herself to be the betrothed wife of Poliarchus. This would be a remedy for all their misfortunes, if it should succeed. But Argenis feared to trust to Meleander's opinion of Poliarchus, which she knew to be changed; but dissembling that, she spoke of Radirobanes, who had an army present under his command. It were not safe for Poliarchus, on a sudden, to assume the rank and title of a king, and oppose him whose power

was already known, and who, at this instant, filled Sicily with his forces. That the dreaded secret treachery, or open villany, which love and ambition had often instigated men to contrive and execute.

Poliarchus acknowledged this to be true, and added, “ That the favour of Meleander to Archombrotus was also to be suspected, who, said he, I fear, has raised his presumptuous thoughts to the hopes of a marriage with thee.” Argenis started at the mention of that circumstance, and running over in her memory the behaviour, words, and actions of Archombrotus, she fell into the same suspicion; they therefore gave over, as rash and dangerous, the purpose of declaring themselves openly to the king at this time.

But they dwelt longer upon another proposition, which was, that since fortune denied them happiness in Sicily, they should go to Poliarchus’s country. Since then it was likely, that Meleander of himself would seek to be reconciled, and if Radirobanes should attempt to revenge his

his disappointment, they could have an army ready to oppose him, neither Selenissa nor Archombrotus could prevent them. What wonder were it, if the bride were carried to her husband's house? The sails of the ship should be instead of the veil to cover her at her departure, and in the night the stars should be the nuptial torches to light her on her way. Argenis yielded her consent to this proposal, though her judgment strove against and disallowed of the proceeding. She approved the cause, but it became her to keep her fame clear, not only from all imputation of immodesty, but also of indiscretion. In this mutiny of her thoughts she assented to Poliarchus, not because she approved it, but because she would not seem to refuse him any thing. Poliarchus, who observed that Argenis against her judgment forced herself to consent to his proposal, disdained that Argenis should be named among those maidens, who through passion or levity run away with worthless lovers, and become the subjects of many idle tales, and a warning to others. "Lady,"
(said

(said he) we are of higher value, than thus like thieves, to seek the help of darkness and secrecy for the accomplishment of our desires. Suppose we are discovered to your offended father? suppose he should separate us never to meet again! In vain do we expect assistance from justice, unless we resolve to assist her. If it shall please you, and if you think we can bear up against our misfortunes, to which we are inured, for three months longer, I will return in that time, with the ensigns of my power and dignity, and receive you as the offspring of princes, in a manner worthy of us both. If our enemies oppose our wishes, I will with an armed force wrest from Sicily my own and your felicity. Only promise me, that you will not frustrate my hopes, by your despair and death before that time. On my part, I will not fail to be here unless death prevent me, which if it shall befall, it shall be my comfort, that you are not present at the mournful spectacle." He concluded with a deep sigh. Argenis was drowned in tears, and thinking how soon he was to leave

leave her, and going so far distant from her, her grief was greater than she well knew how to support; but being familiarised to sorrow, she suffered three months to be added to her sufferings, resolving if in that time Poliarchus should return, even though poor, friendless, and disarmed, she would reject all other hopes and counsel, and follow him through the world.

When this resolution was taken, they advised many things necessary for each others conduct in the mean time. She conjured her lover with words and tears, not to fail his appointed time, assuring him that her life depended on his punctuality. "I have, (said she) Poliarchus, loved many qualities in thee, but particularly thy truth, and a virtue that most men are strangers to, thy modesty. It is long since that neglecting, though not despising the right my father has in disposing of me, I have chosen thee to be my husband: now again, as far as I have power, I endow thee with myself, my love, my fortunes! And I swear by the destiny of both, that nothing shall ever absolve my vow! Ar-
genis

genis shall be the wife of Poliarchus, or of no man! If the gods grant, that we may be united in the holy rites of marriage, we will render thanks for so great a blessing. But if our evil destiny prevail, and cross our happiness, at least I will go chaste to my grave, and the marriage shall be consummated between our souls." At these words her face was dyed with a crimson blush, and Poliarchus was no less earnest in his acknowledgments of her goodness, and of the victory she had gained over him.

They both began to fear, lest Selenissa should return from Radirobanes, whom after they had vowed to punish, Poliarchus persuaded not to put her away rashly, who was privy to so many secrets; but if the old woman should give her any pretence to dismiss her, he wished she would remember Timoclea, a most discreet matron, and worthy of that place in her esteem, which the other had forfeited. Timoclea was sufficiently recommended to Argenis, by being the preserver of Poliarchus; but the lady feared she had not rewarded or distinguished

distinguished her enough : for Seleniffa's insinuations had prevented those marks of favour, that the princess had intended to show her.

But when Poliarchus informed her of the good will of Dunalbius towards him, and that Antenor and Hieroleander were no less affectionate, she rejoiced much she could use the advice of such worthy men, in her most secret and weighty affairs. They resolved to gratify all their friends with favours and benefits, as opportunities should arise.

Now the time called upon them to separate, and both expected a farewell, but neither could find courage to speak that word first. They both were some moments in silent sadness ; Poliarchus endeavoured to take his leave, but could not utter a word. Nevertheless, that he might put an end to the distress of both, which increased every moment, rousing all his fortitude, he made a respectful bow, and withdrew hastily without speaking a word. As soon as he was out of sight, Argenis gave free vent to her tears ; she struck
her

her innocent bosom, feeling for the distresses of Poliarchus more than for her own. In this confusion of thoughts she rushed into her chamber, to indulge her grief there. Poliarchus, with weak eyes and uncertain steps, could scarcely find his way out of the garden. Arfidas knowing his perturbations attended in silence, upon him, who was dumb with grief, and returned with him to the house of Nicompompus; and from thence in the evening brought him on board his ship.

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